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Police find stolen Pajero thru GPS tracking device

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Japan hands San Mig-RP team 2nd straight loss

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BBC journalist freed in Gaza after 16 weeks

BUSINESS / B3
RP seen becoming Asia's franchising hub

ACROSS / A13
Taxes for 7 Marcos Baguio mansions unpaid past 20 years

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, July 5, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 207 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

7/7/07: Superstition, marketing converge

PARIS—THIS YEAR, 7/7/07 provides a unique opportunity for superstition and marketing to come together: Starry-eyed couples are tying the knot, casinos are overbooked and Live Earth concerts as well as

7/7/07/ A6

RP ranks high in UN's survey on e-governance

By Cynthia D. Balana and Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINES RANKS AMONG THE TOP 25 countries in the world in the United Nations E-Governance Survey because of "the innovative ways the government is employing technology to improve public administration," the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

RP RANKS/ A15

Media may be bugged

DOJ chief says nobody immune from wiretapping

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez yesterday said the anti-terrorism law allowed the wiretapping of everybody, including journalists, if they were terror suspects, but a Roman Catholic bishop warned of "greater tumult" if the law was abused and applied indiscriminately to those opposed to the Arroyo administration.

Gonzalez stressed, however, that approval of the Court of Appeals was needed before anyone could be bugged under the Human Security Act of 2007.

While the HSA states that communication between journalists and their sources should not be bugged, media practitioners can still be subjected to wiretapping if they are suspected of involvement in terror activities, Gonzalez told reporters, explaining the parameters of the law.

The HSA also prohibits the wiretapping of communications between lawyers and clients, doctors and patients, and confidential business correspondence. Government officials are not included in the ban.

Gonzalez said the law could be implemented by about August or September.

He said that wiretapping was "intrusive," but that freedom was not absolute.

Talking to a terrorist, however, does not automatically make a journalist a terror suspect.

"If you are a journalist, you are free from wiretapping because the law says that journalists and their sources of information cannot be subjected to wiretapping," the justice

MEDIA/ A6

SC upholds 20% discount for elderly

By Leila B. Salaverria

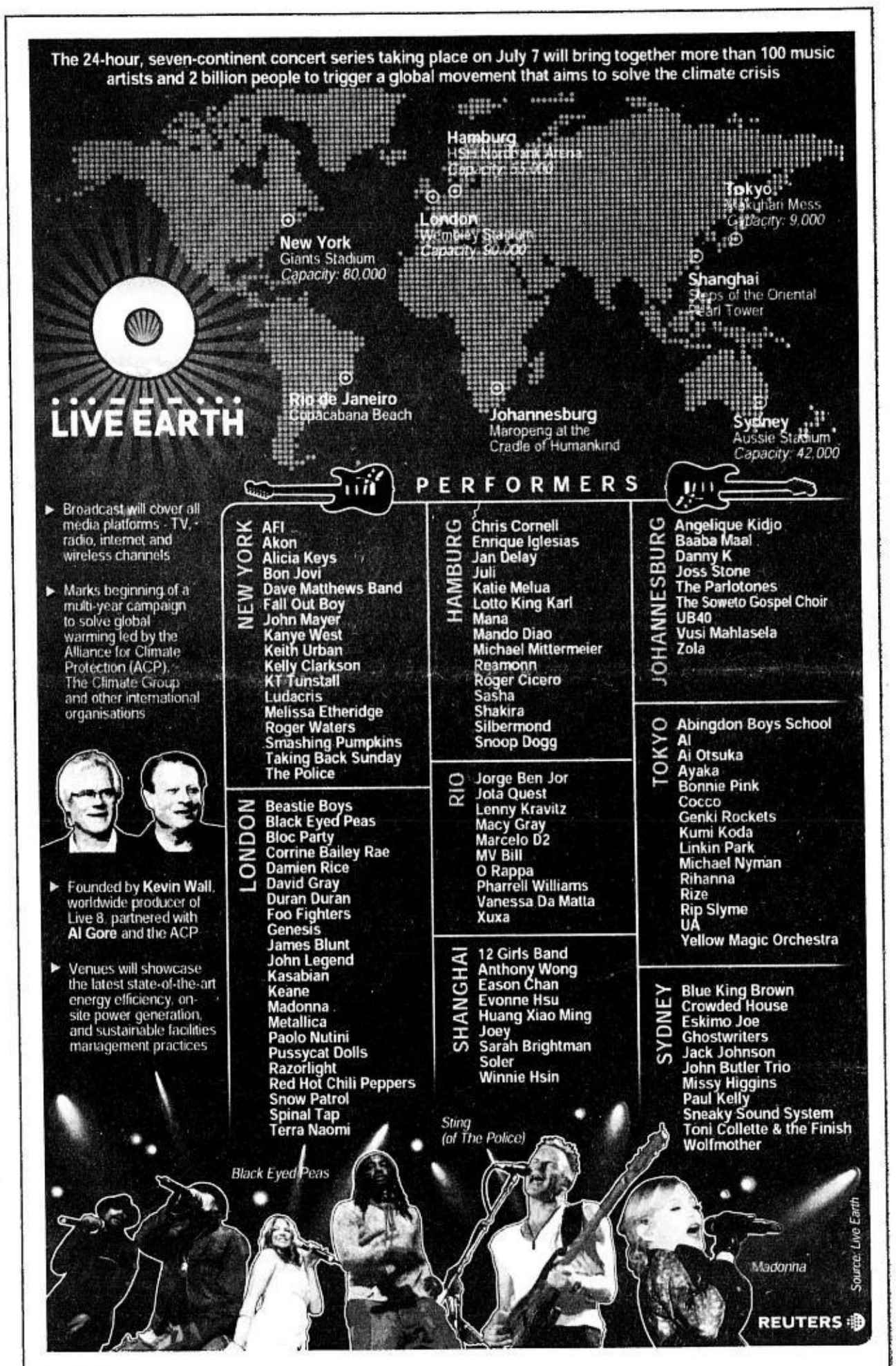
SAYING PUBLIC GOOD CAN PREVAIL OVER the right to property, the Supreme Court has dismissed a petition questioning the constitutionality of a provision in the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003 giving persons aged 60 and older a 20-percent discount in purchasing medicines and paying for certain services.

In turning down the petition of a number of drugstore owners to nullify the provision on grounds of financial losses, the high court said there was no proof that the provision had been arbitrarily issued and would oppress their business operations.

"Moreover, the right to property has a social dimension. While Article XIII of the Constitution provides the precept for the protection of property, various laws and jurisprudence, particularly on agrarian reform and the regulation of contracts and public utilities, continuously serve as a reminder that the right to property can be relinquished upon the command of the State for the promotion of public good," the high court said in a June 29 en banc decision.

The petition was filed by Carlos Superdrug Corp., Elsie Cano of Advance Drug, Dr. Simplicio Yap of City Pharmacy, Melvin dela Serna

SC UPHOLDS/ A8



Live Earth concert aims to change world

NEW YORK—LIVE EARTH IS AMBITIOUS by any standard—eight concerts featuring the biggest names in music, playing for a 24-hour period across the globe, all for the cause of global warming.

But like its template—2006's Live 8, the global concert devoted to poverty in Africa—the mission of Live Earth is somewhat amorphous. Its aim is to "trigger a global movement to solve the climate crisis."

Whatever Live Earth's accomplishment on Saturday, it will be difficult to measure. Former US Vice President Al Gore, who partnered with Kevin Wall in founding Live Earth, believes the world needs to rise up as one giant public voice to influence "a new political reality."

"The tipping point in the political system will come when the majority of the people are armed with enough

LIVE EARTH/ A15

REM ZAMORA

REVOLUTIONIZING FILIPINO ICON: In its first run on Wednesday on Ayala Avenue.

E-jeepney electrifies Makati folk

By DJ Yap

ON THEIR FIRST EXCURSION IN THE streets of the metropolis yesterday, the two brightly painted "e-jeepneys" did not roar at all.

They did not even purr.

For that matter, they did not hiss, or cough, or sputter, like all public utility jeepneys do. Instead, these Earth-friendly cousins of the jeepney wove their way around the Makati central business district quietly—and with nary a puff of smoke from their glossy behinds.

Costing P500,000 each and running on batteries charged via electrical sockets overnight, the 12-seater e-jeepneys had a test-run along Ayala Avenue as part of a study on the feasibility of using this mode of

E-JEEPNEY/ A15

'Virtual' nameless, faceless con artists log on to your cash

By Ma. Salve Duplito
Inquirer.net

IF SOMEONE IS OFFERING TO DOUBLE your money in 22 days, don't think twice. Just say no. It's a scam.

Investment con artists are at it again. This time, using the Internet to cloak their identities, they are luring unsuspecting individuals into a get-rich-quick scheme that simply is too good to be true: They guarantee to double your money in less than a month.

VIRTUAL/ A6

US WWII hero returns to visit sites close to his heart

By TJ Burgonio

IN HIS LATE TEENS, AMERICAN Harrold Owen flew a fighter plane and engaged Japanese aircraft in dog fights over Manila during World War II, shooting down at least four. He survived the war, and flew back home a hero.

But after raising a family in Texas, inventing oil tools and founding companies that specialized in oil technology, Owen felt he had to fly back to the Philippines one last time on a personal mission.

Sixty years after the war, the retired captain was back in Manila in March this year mainly to see the prison camp in Cabanatuan where his older brother, Carl, an infantryman, died during the war. *(See "In the Know," Page A8.)*

And he didn't mind taking the long-haul flights and the long drives despite his poor health. After surviving strokes in the 1990s, he is now bound to a wheelchair, and his speech has slowed a bit.

"He wanted to come. He wanted to see where he was stationed. But he really wanted to see where his brother died," his son Dean, who accompanied Owen on the trip, said in an interview.

So on a hot Saturday morning in March, the 83-year-old Owen got his wish, and more.

At the site of the former prison camp in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, the Owens were greeted by a huge banner stretched across the gate, two former Filipino guerrillas, and local officials.

US WWII/ A8

OWEN 60 years ago: Dog fights over Manila.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2007

EZ2 FOUR DIGIT

10 31 | 9 2 5 9

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

2 7 9 | 4 7 9

(All in exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/04/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Bedol not yet off the hook

Comelec denies 'kid-glove' treatment of controversial Maguindanao poll officer

By Nikko Dizon and Jerome Aning

ELECTION COMMISsioner Nicodemo Ferrer yesterday denied accusations by church-based election volunteers that the Commission on Elections was giving Lintang Bedol "kid-glove treatment," announcing that the suspended Maguindanao election supervisor could possibly be slapped with additional charges.

"Some people are saying we're just staging a drama. Why don't these people just wait for us to finish our duty?" Ferrer told reporters in a mix of English and Filipino.

Ferrer heads Task Force Maguindanao, which is investigating allegations of widespread electoral fraud in the southern province.

The controversial Bedol has reportedly returned to Cotabato City after he was released by Comelec just days after he was arrested on contempt charges for failing to attend the provincial canvass and hearings at the Comelec. He was also called down for his "unlawful assumption" of custody of municipal certificates of canvass which he later claimed he lost.

STILL WEARING AN EYEPATCH, election official Lintang Bedol is flanked by police escorts at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on his departure for Cotabato City yesterday. JESS YUSON

Watchlist

Bedol has been placed under the immigration watchlist. Ferrer said this would not prevent him from leaving the country but "it would at least inform the Comelec of the latter's whereabouts."

He also clarified that an earlier letter he penned informing Immigration that the controversial election official had been unanimously found guilty of indirect contempt of the Comelec, was "an error." He said Bedol was to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

On Bedol's fate, Ferrer said that the Comelec en banc would now ask the Philippine National Police (PNP) to "determine if there could be a basis" for charging Bedol with illegal possession of firearms.

The commission would also order its law department to study the possibility of filing before the Maguindanao prosecutor's office a case of infidelity in the custody of public documents, Ferrer said.

He added that the Comelec law department would be asked to look at other laws Bedol has possibly violated "for all the things he has done" and to refer this to the Civil Service Commission.

Bedol could possibly be removed from office and be ineligible to hold any public office if he is found guilty of violating civil service rules, said Ferrer.

In a related development, the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday called on the public to phone in information they might have on any assets of Bedol and said this could be a basis for a lifestyle check on him.

After the Comelec resolves the Bedol issue, Ferrer said the commission "could be counted on" to go after Lilian Radam and Yogie Martirizar, election supervisors of North and South Cotabato, respectively, who are also alleged to be involved in electoral fraud.

The Comelec is working on "cleaning its bad reputation," he said.

"We have been saddled by this (bad reputation)... Do not presume us to be bad people unless proven otherwise" he said, adding that there are some people simply out to "destroy" the Comelec.

He added: "The Comelec is the last bastion of democracy in our country because we protect the people's right to suffrage by conducting free elections."

Travesty of election

Earlier yesterday, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) lambasted Comelec for the "kid-glove" treatment it was giving Bedol

"Please put a stop to this running travesty of the electoral process. You have the power to do so," PPCRV national chair Henrietta de Villa said in an appeal to Comelec.

She said she was making the appeal in behalf of 439,693 PPCRV volunteers who risked lift and limb to restore the credibility to the elections and help Comelec conduct clean and honest polls.

"...His (Bedol's) flagrant flaunting of anomalies constrains us to make public our discomfort, disquietude and dismay," De Villa said.

This, she said, recalls the unsolved "Hello, Garci" tape controversy which caught the President talking to an election commissioner about vote leads in Mindanao.

"How can the Filipino people feel good about our elections when the gross mistakes of the past continuously rear their ugly heads in our electoral exercise which can only mean that no genuine effort is being made to regain the public trust?"

Meanwhile, Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, head of the Philippine National Police in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao, said they no longer had control over Bedol.

"I have not monitored where he went...If he used his ticket to Davao," Goltiao told the INQUIRER.

With a report by Alcuin Papa

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

"You can take pride in his legacy."

Ronald Reagan
U.S. President

—

"A great humanitarian and philanthropist."
Prince Raad *Prince of Jordan*

—

"One could only be deeply impressed by his vast efforts to promote understanding and peace among peoples."
Teddy Kollek *Mayor, Jerusalem*

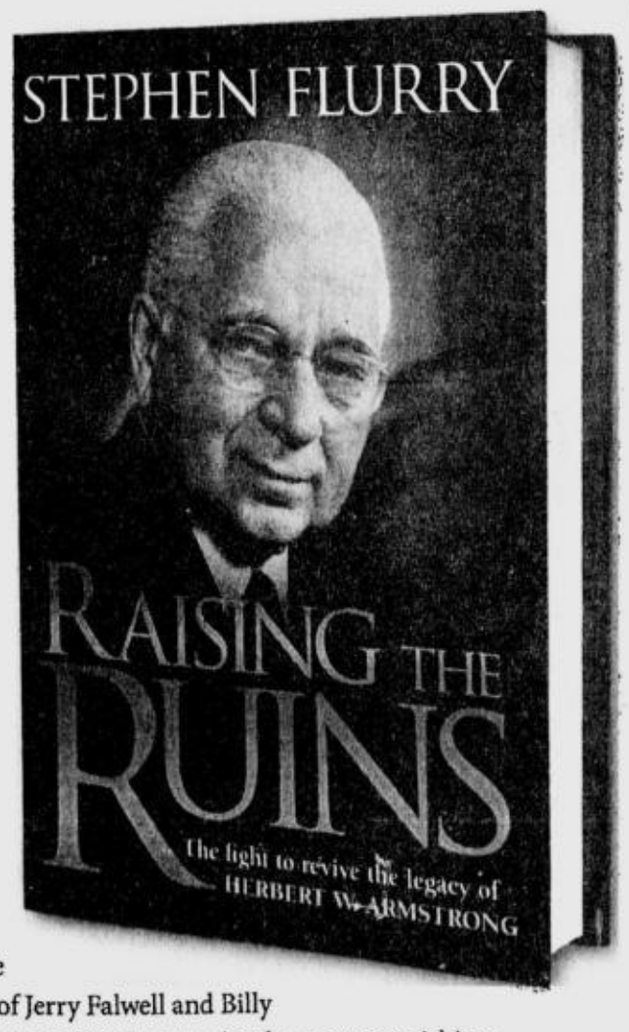
—

"A giant of a man."
William Bogaard *Mayor, Pasadena, Calif.*

—

"In his own quiet way Mr. Armstrong has done more to promote positive relations between countries than has the [U.S.] State Department."
Cy Graph
President, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

—



WHAT HAPPENED to the global humanitarian empire of Herbert W. Armstrong, one of the foremost religious leaders of the 20th century? During the 1980s, Armstrong's work was bigger than those of Jerry Falwell and Billy Graham *combined*. What happened after his death in 1986, however, is the most astonishing story in modern religion. Here is the shocking, gripping untold story of how the foundation, colleges and church he founded were doctrinally hijacked and spiritually destroyed. It is the story of the cabal of leaders who trashed his work, silenced his voice, sold the church's assets and hoarded the money. It is also the inspiring story of the life-and-death, six-year court battle that ensued when a faith-filled few held fast to his mission and sought to defend his legacy—by *raising the ruins*.

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We will survive Erap acquittal, says Palace

By Gil Cabacungan

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID IT WILL survive an acquittal of jailed President Joseph Estrada from the plunder charges that were the basis for the Edsa People Power II event that propelled President Macapagal-Arroyo to power six years ago.

"This administration will survive any condition. Definitely, no question about that," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita when asked on what could be an adverse reaction from Estrada's supporters if the Sandiganbayan finds their leader innocent of the charges that led to his ouster in 2001 and his stay in jail over the last six years.

"We (the Arroyo administration) are only going by our laws. That is important. It's one thing to accuse, it's another to prove the accusation and we have the courts to do that," said Ermita.

But Ermita noted that a guilty verdict on Estrada could very well incite an equally strong reaction from his followers which was why the Palace had been preparing contingency plans for any scenario.

"We will have to see first the reaction of the public whether the verdict is guilty or not guilty and act accordingly. She is the president of the entire Filipino people. She should make sure that the situation on the ground is peaceful," said Ermita.

Ermita, however, would not say what scenario Malacañang felt would have more serious reaction.

He was adamant that Malacañang has kept its hands off the case throughout the trial period and that it would not dare touch the Sandiganbayan's final decision.

"The Sandiganbayan is a separate body. The accused is a former president and therefore he should be given due respect. Let's just follow what the law says as far as such a case is concerned," said Ermita.

When asked if he considered the event a possible threat to national security, Ermita said: "He's a very important personality. I would like to think that whoever was the proponent or is the proponent of that one-page ad is precisely in their own group."

Ermita was reacting to a one-page ad in newspapers yesterday that appealed for sobriety in the face of the Sandiganbayan's impending decision on the Estrada case.

"Some sectors saying this could be a national threat but if you are following the case of the former president you will see how transparent the litigation of the case has been and they will see when the verdict comes out if it follows the rule of law or not. It's very transparent and maybe that would mitigate against it being a serious threat against national security," said Ermita.

Imelda bash raises PCGG eyebrow

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government (PCGG) is set to demand an explanation from the Department of Tourism (DOT) on how former First Lady Imelda Marcos managed to use the Marcos Canlubang mansion for her recent birthday party.

In a press conference yesterday, PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio said the mansion is under sequestration but is under the control of the DOT and should not have been used.

"We will inquire why the DOT allowed the use of the mansion," Sabio said.

Sabio said that in 1986 after the ouster of former President Ferdinand Marcos, some of properties of the Marcos family were turned over to the administration of the DOT under the orders of the Office of the President.

This include the Canlubang Mansion, the Coconut Palace in Tagaytay, the Bamboo House, the Malacañang of the North and the Curimao Rest House.

Sabio said the PCGG would have taken over administration of the properties but it did not have sufficient manpower to do so.

"We will just have to expedite the termination of the cases (related to the properties)," Sabio told reporters.

Last June 4, Mrs. Marcos celebrated her 78th birthday at the former presidential guesthouse in Canlubang, Laguna.

In an interview with a television station, Mrs. Marcos said she wanted to celebrate her birthday at the mansion because her family had a lot of fond memories of the place.

But she lamented that the condition of the guesthouse had deteriorated since 1986.

She clarified that her family had to ask permission to hold her party at the mansion but declined to name the government official who granted her request.

Comelec to proclaim 12th senator in August

Zubiri now up by 1,086 over Pimentel in media tally

By Nikko Dizon

PIMENTEL

ZUBIRI

THE 12TH AND LAST WINNING SENATORIAL candidate may be proclaimed in August as special elections will still be held in Pantar, Lanao del Norte while the municipal canvassing of the vote tallies from Bogo, Cebu has yet to be scheduled, an election commissioner said yesterday.

Based on the Commission on Election's latest senatorial tally, the lead of Genuine Opposition candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III over Team Unity's Juan Miguel Zubiri has dwindled to only 501 votes.

A different tally compiled by media, however, saw Zubiri now leading Pimentel by 1,086 votes.

Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer said that tallies from the July 23 special elections in Pantar and from Bogo would be crucial in determining the last winning senator.

Pantar has a voting population of 10,000 while Bogo has 20,000.

Comelec's best

Ferrer said the Comelec had to schedule special elections in Pantar after its election officer, Alauya Tago, "absconded with the list of registered voters."

Nongovernment organizations and residents discovered more than 2,000 illegally registered voters in Pantar. Tago has also been reported missing.

Ferrer said the Comelec "will do its best" to proclaim the last winning senator by the end of this month.

But considering that a special election has been scheduled in late July, Ferrer said: "It's possible that the 12th senator will be proclaimed in August."

Yesterday, the Comelec released its latest senatorial canvass result as of 6 p.m. of June 29.

The senatorial canvass report No. 28 showed Pimentel with 10,971,362 votes and Zubiri with 10,970,861 votes, giving the GO candidate a mere 501 vote edge over the TU bet.

This was in contrast to the votes tallied by the media on June 29, where Pimentel had 10,973,562 votes and Zubiri garnered 10,969,269 votes, or a difference of 4,293 votes in favor of the GO candidate.

Both the Comelec and media tallies included votes tabulated by the Comelec, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers, from Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Biñan in Laguna, and Maguindanao.

Following the July 2 national canvassing of votes from the towns of Barira and Kabuntalan in Shariff Kabunsuan, and the corrected votes in Tamparan, Lanao del Sur where 680 votes were subtracted from Zubiri, the media tally showed Pimentel with 10,974,911 votes against Zubiri's 10,972,205 votes.

Pimentel's lead was slashed to 2,706 votes.

But combining Comelec's June 29 official tally and the Shariff Kabunsuan and Tamparan figures jotted down by the media last Monday would show that Zubiri has already overtaken Pimentel by 1,086 votes.

Zubiri will have 10,973,797 votes compared to Pimentel's 10,972,711 votes.

Asked about the discrepancy between the media tally and the Comelec figures, Ferrer said this was possible because of "clerical errors" of the Comelec tabulators that were corrected later.

"We are not favoring anyone. Sometimes there are clerical errors but that's all in the official records," Ferrer said.

The national canvassing will resume today at 2 p.m. for the official tabulation of votes from Bais, Negros Oriental and several precincts in Pagalungan, Maguindanao.

Ferrer said special elections have also been scheduled on July 16 in seven precincts in three towns in Lanao del Norte but the voting would only affect the local elections there.

Koko files new petition to stop proclamation

By Leila B. Salaverria and Cynthia D. Balana

GENUINE OPPOSITION SENATORIAL candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop the Commission on Elections from proclaiming the 12th winning senator.

In his petition for a temporary restraining order, Pimentel also asked the high court to nullify the proceedings of the Comelec, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC), which included the results from Maguindanao in the national canvass of votes for senator, for being unconstitutional and illegal.

He also wants to nullify the re-canvass of the municipal certificates of canvass (MCOC) that led to the preparation of a provincial COC for Maguindanao.

"The anticipated hasty termination of canvass proceedings and the imminent proclamation of the private respondent will work grave and irreparable injury on the petitioner and to the millions of people who voted for him expecting the proclamation of winners based on the cleanest count that the respondent NBC could possibly undertake," he said.

Pimentel said the NBC should also be directed to determine the authenticity of the MCOC, while he should be allowed to present proof to back up his claim that the election results in Maguindanao were manufactured, and to question election officials in the said province.

He noted that while he still leads over closest rival, Juan Miguel Zubiri, he expects this to be gone when the votes from the remaining COCs are canvassed.

"The canvass proceedings before the public respondents have been a sham," he said.

The Supreme Court had earlier denied Pimentel's earlier petition to stop the canvassing of Maguindanao votes.

Zubiri, however, yesterday asked Pimentel to just bring their electoral fight to the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET) and let the Comelec proclaim the winner for the 12th and last Senate slot.

In an interview, Zubiri said Pimentel's petition asking the Supreme Court to stop the proclamation of the 12th winner by declaring illegal the Comelec canvass of votes from Maguindanao was a dilatory tactic.

"I believe this is a last ditch attempt on his part to slow down the process of proclamation for the 12th (winning) candidate," he said.

Zubiri noted that as of yesterday, Pimentel's lead was down to 501.

But Zubiri said he would win in the end and lead by a little over 17,000 votes over Pimentel after all the votes in the affected areas shall have been canvassed.

He said he would lead by 8,402 votes in Bogo, Cebu and 8,100 votes in Bais, Negros Oriental.

In Barira town in Shariff Kabunsuan, Zubiri said he led Pimentel by 2,266 votes.

Pangilinan appeals to Senate colleagues to stop bickering

By Cynthia D. Balana

RESPONDING TO CHARGES THAT he had abandoned the opposition, Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan yesterday appealed to his colleagues in the Senate to stop bickering over the choice of Senate president.

Pangilinan explained that his absence from the secret balloting (for the next Senate president) called by the opposition block was because he was never formally with them. "So it does not include me," he said.

An independent candidate in the last election, Pangilinan said his preference for Sen. Manuel Villar as Senate president did not mean that he had abandoned his opposition or independent stance.

He defended Villar's coalition with administration-allied senators, saying "If you ask me, based on my experience in the majority coalition in 2001 and 2004, it's better for them to unite. They should set aside their presidential ambitions in 2010 and decide on the Senate presidency based on 2007," he told reporters in Filipino.

He added that he would like to see a watchdog Senate, one that brings together senators under a common stand and legislative agenda, regardless of political affiliations.

Pangilinan also said he believed the chairmanships of the various Senate committees should be decided on qualifications of individual senators, and not on party affiliations.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Villar's rival for the top Senate post, said he also did not foresee a parting of ways with other opposition senators over the issue of who should be Senate president.

He said that based on the information he received, Senators Francis Escudero and Peter Allan Cayetano, who both ran under the opposition in the last elections, would support Villar as Senate president although they would continue to push for the legislative agenda of the opposition.

Pimentel added that he would not mind being Senate minority leader again as long as the rest of the opposition senators remained solid.

"As far as I'm concerned, I don't take these things at the personal level. I respect their right to choose for themselves. But that said, I think they will have a lot of explaining to do to our people because the main message of the last elections was overwhelmingly—the people voted for the opposition candidates to the Senate," he quipped.

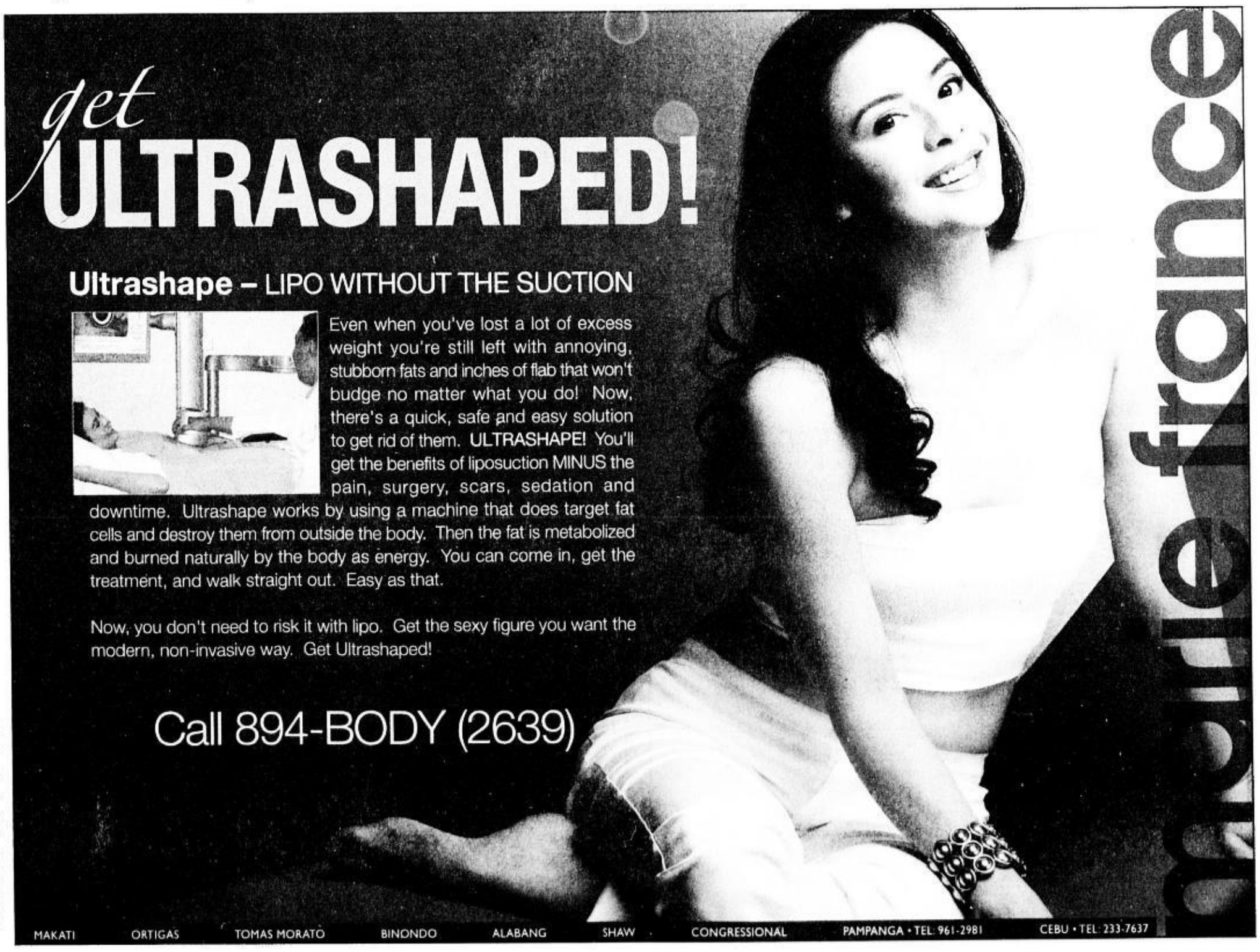
Pimentel refused to comment on the political rivalry between Villar and Sen. Mar Roxas, both opposition members, which has reportedly led to the break up of the opposition.

GMA seeks Solgen word on new SC justice

AFTER HER EARLIER choice for Supreme Court Justice turned out to be ineligible because of his citizenship, President Macapagal-Arroyo now wants the prospective high court occupant to be recommended by the government's top lawyer.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that the President would wait for the Solicitor General's recommendation for Associate Justice after the high court ruled that her previous nominee, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Gregory Ong, was not a natural born Filipino citizen based on his birth certificate which listed him as Chinese.

In a press conference, Ermita said the Solicitor General has to decide whether the President should nominate another candidate from the six remaining names on the list submitted by the Judicial and Bar Council or should she wait for the JBC to revalidate its nominees to ensure that all of their nominees are eligible for the high court. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*



No rest for Namfrel

By Kristine L. Alave

THE ELECTIONS MAY BE OVER BUT THE National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) said it is not taking a rest. It has another "crucial" task to do.

Namfrel secretary-general Eric Alvia said the group's next job is to monitor the coming appointments to the Commission on Elections to prevent the selection of political figures "beholden" to Malacañang.

In a press briefing yesterday, Alvia urged the media and the public to keep a close watch on the names being floated to replace Commissioners Florentino Tuazon and Resureccion Borra, as well as Chairman Benjamin Abalos. All three are set to retire in February 2008.

Another empty seat, vacated by ex-Commissioner Rufino Javier in November 2006, has also to be filled, he said.

"The biggest issue that we will focus on will be in February, when three commissioners of Comelec will retire," he said.

The election watchdog official said they want to see the appointment of Comelec commissioners who have independence, probity and are "not beholden to the powers that be."

He added that they don't want to see a replay of the scandals that rocked the Commission in the past few years, particularly the "Hello, Garci" tape scandal, which suggested that the President and a Comelec commissioner discussed alleged vote-rigging in Mindanao during the 2004 presidential elections, with the help of some top military officials.

The scandal triggered two failed impeachment attempts against President Macapagal-Arroyo and sullied the image of the Comelec.

In the recent May 14 polls, the poll body was faced with low public confidence as shown in surveys, and allegations of election cheating involving Comelec representatives in southern hotspots like Maguindanao and Shariff Kabunsuan.

Alvia said this is the first time civil society groups will strictly monitor the appointments of Comelec officers, something they failed to do in 2002, when its controversial chairman was appointed.

FINAL CASUALTY TALLY

PNP lists 121 people dead, 176 hurt in polls

By Alcuin Papa

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 299 casualties in the May 14 local elections this year, statistics from the Philippine National Police (PNP) said.

According to the PNP figures on election-related violent incidents (Ervi), a total of 121 people died during this year's election period from January 14 to June 13.

Out of this number, 37 were either politicians or candidates. A total of 63 supporters of candidates and civilians caught in the crossfire were killed.

Two persons missing

A total of 176 people were injured and two persons went missing in 229 violent incidents, the figures from the PNP said.

Also, 20 policemen and one soldier were killed in security operations during the elections. A total of 34 policemen and two soldiers were injured.

The INQUIRER's own tally listed around 140 dead.

There were 189 fatalities in 2004 and 132 in 2001.

Elections in the country, especially local elections, have traditionally been violent affairs.

Private armed groups

Hotly contested electoral contests are fueled by a proliferation of firearms and the existence of private armed groups funded mostly by local politicians. The PNP counted 36 private armed groups operating around the country.

A total of nine areas were placed on the PNP's list of hotspots. Five areas were placed under Comelec control. These are San Carlos City, Abra, Nueva Ecija, Valencia in Bukidnon and Bantayan Island in Cebu.

The PNP managed to confiscate around 2,000 guns and arrested their owners for carrying their firearms without permits from the Commission on Elections (Comelec). The election body imposed a gun ban during the election period.

Offshoot

The PNP was deputized to secure the 2004 elections, a job traditionally given to the military. But in October last year, officials from the Comelec and the defense department signed a memorandum limiting the involvement of the military in the elections. The agreement was an offshoot of the "Hello Garci" controversy.

Nonetheless, some military units were used to secure certain areas, mostly in the south, with the permission of the Comelec.

The PNP had asked a P600 million budget for the security of the 2004 elections but got only around half of the amount.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The JBC announces that the following are applicants for different judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC): (NCJR) CALOOCAN CITY: (Br. 120) AGBADA, Genie G.; **AGOR**, Dominador A.; **ALZATE**, Laureano T.; **ANDOY**, Teresito A.; **BLANCAFLOR**, Jaime C.; **CALDONA**, Edgardo M.; **CALIS**, Elpidio R.; **CAPELLAN**, Mario B.; **CASTILLO**, Silverio Q.; **CEDILLO**, Eranio G.; **DIAZ**, Augustus C.; **ILAO**, Toribio E. Jr.; **LIM**, Sarah Alma M.; **LIWANAG**, Rico Sebastian D.; **MACATAÑGAY**, Esther P.; **MANGROBANG**, Ma. Celestina C.; **MANTALA**, Apollo S.; **MAÑALAC**, Mary Ann C.; **MONTOJO**, Peter M.; **PACIS**, Edward D.; **PACULDO**, Lorenza B.; **QUINAGORAN**, Rowena DJ; **QUINTIN**, Edison F.; **RALAR**, Aurelio R. Jr.; **SISCAR**, Josefina E. **SISON**, Dionisio C.; **SOLUREN**, Corazon D.; **TIENZO**, Juanita C.; **TIMOLA**, Wilfredo V.; **TRIA**, Roslyn R.; **VASQUEZ**, Raquelen A. **MALABON CITY: (Br. 73) AGCAOILI**, Alfredo P.; **ALIPOSA**, Nepthali A.; **ASUNCION**, Miguel S.; **BAUTISTA**, Meynardo M. Jr.; **BORJA**, Crispo Q. Jr.; **CALONGE**, Diosdado V.; **CAPELLAN**, Mario B.; **CASTILLO**, Virgilita B.; **CEGUERRA**, Maria Cheryl L.; **CRUZ**, Serafin C.; **DE LUNA**, Ambrosio B.; **DOCENA**, Zaldy B.; **DUMLAO**, Florentino R. Jr.; **ESTORNINOS**, Filotea M.; **FORTUNO**, Jose C.; **GAMAD**, Rita M.; **JAMIAS**, Bayani M.; **LIM**, Maximo B.; **MACABAYA**, Bonifacio M.; **MAGSINO**, Celso Raymundo DL. Jr.; **MALABAGUIO**, Arthur O.; **MATIRA**, Rowena DC.; **MIARAL**, Ismael G.; **OBEJAS**, Joselito D.; **QUINTANO**, Ireneo M.; **QUINTIN**, Edison F.; **RAMOS**, Larry G.; **RODULFO**, Juan T.; **SAGADAL**, Omar L.; **SANTOS**, Efren G.; **SORDAN**, Marie Claire M.; **STA. CRUZ**, Manuel B. Jr.; **SUAREZ**, Danilo V.; **TOLEDO**, Ismael V.; **TOLLEDO**, Gaudencio T. Jr.; **VELASQUEZ**, Gregorio M. **MANILA: (Brs. 11, 31, 42 & 48) ACOSTA**, Louis P.; **AGBADA**, Genie G.; **AGOR**, Dominador A.; **ALTAREJOS**, Mateo B.; **ALZATE**, Laureano T.; **AMPUAN**, Alfredo D.; **ARQUELADA**, Dominador L.; **BANDONG**, Dinah Evangeline B.; **BAUTISTA**, Jose L. Jr.; **BERMEJO**, Juan O. Jr.; **BLANCAFLOR**, Jaime C.; **BRAVO**, Crispin B.; **BUEMIO**, Danilo A.; **CALIS**, Elpidio R.; **CAPELLAN**, Mario B.; **CASTILLO**, Silverio Q.; **CEDILLO**, Eranio G.; **CEZAR**, Amorfina C.; **CONTRERAS**, Jaime E.; **DIAZ**, Augustus C.; **GRAFIL**, Evangeline Y.; **ILAO**, Toribio E. Jr.; **JURADO**, Cicero D. Jr.; **LEGASPI**, Germano D.; **LIM**, Sarah Alma M.; **LIWANAG**, Rico Sebastian D.; **LORREDO**, Jorge Emmanuel M.; **LUBAO**, Antonio C.; **MACARAIG**, Virgilio V.; **MACATAÑGAY**, Esther P.; **MANGROBANG**, Ma. Celestina C.; **MANTALA**, Apollo S.; **MONTOJO**, Peter M.; **OLIVETE**, Antonio M.; **PACULDO**, Lorenza B.; **PASIA**, Pio M.; **PELIÑO**, Divina Gracia L.; **QUINAGORAN**, Rowena DJ.; **QUITAIN**, Eutiquio L.; **RUIZ**, Joseph Cedrick O.; **SANTOS**, Ma. Bernardita J.; **SINGH**, Maria Filomena D.; **SISCAR**, Josefina E.; **SISON**, Dionisio C.; **SOLUREN**, Corazon D.; **TENORIO**, Buenaventura Albert J.; **TIENZO**, Juanita C.; **TIMOLA**, Wilfredo V.; **TOPACIO**, Dinnah A.; **TORRES**, Lizabeth G.; **TRIA**, Roslyn R.; **VASQUEZ**, Racquelen A.; **VILLAVERT**, Cecilyn B.; **YANGA**, Armando A. **MUNTINLUPA CITY: (Br. 276) AGCAOILI**, Alfredo P.; **ALIPOSA**, Nepthali A.; **ARQUIZA**, Antonio A. Jr.; **ARREZA**, Augusto Y. Jr.; **ASUNCION**, Miguel S.; **ATIENZA**, Eva P.; **BAUTISTA**, Edgardo C.; **BISQUERA**, Jose-Santos B.; **BORJA**, Crispo Q. Jr.; **CALIS**, Elpidio R.; **CALONGE**, Diosdado V.; **CATALO**, Leandro C.; **CEZAR**, Amorfina C.; **CHUA**, Marifi F.; **CONTRERAS**, Jaime E.; **CORPUZ**, Ferdinand M.; **CRUZ**, Evelyn B.; **DE GUZMAN**, Homobono S.; **DE JESUS**, Jose Tereso U. Jr.; **DE LUNA**, Ambrosio B.; **DIZON**, Medwin S.; **DOCENA**, Zaldy B.; **DULDULAO**, Ismael T.; **DUQUE**, Perla Y.; **HERMOSISIMA**, Elizabeth D.; **HERNANDEZ**, Nyriam Susan S.; **HORNILLA**, Linda M.; **LIM**, Maximo B.; **LUCENARIO**, Nida A.; **MACABAYA**, Bonifacio M.; **MAGSINO**, Celso Raymundo D. Jr.; **MALABAGUIO**, Arthur O.; **MEDINA**, Antonietta P.; **MENDOZA**, Ernesto C.; **MENDOZA**, Leo Luis P.; **MIARAL**, Ismael G.; **PAMINTUAN**, Ricardo T.; **PEREÑA** Violeta M.; **RODULFO**, Juan T.; **SANTOS**, Efren G.; **SOLUREN**, Corazon D.; **SORDAN**, Marie Claire M.; **SUAREZ**, Danilo V.; **SUBIDO**, Benjamin T.; **SULIT**, Cristina J.; **TOBIA**, Robert H.; **TOLEDO**, Ismael V.; **TOLLEDO**, Gaudencio T. Jr.; **VILLANUEVA**, Romulo S.; **ZUÑIGA**, Ma. Zorayda T. **PASAY CITY: (Brs. 116 & 117) AGUILAR**, Narciso M.; **ALZATE**, Laureano T.; **BANDONG**, Dinah Evangeline B.; **BAUTISTA**, Jose L. Jr.; **CALIS**, Elpidio R.; **CEDILLO**, Eranio G.; **DELA CRUZ**, Eugenio G.; **DIAZ**, Augustus C.; **ILAO**, Toribio E. Jr.; **JACINTO**, Jose S. Jr.; **JURADO**, Cicero D. Jr.; **LIGAYA**, Merinnisa O.; **LIM**, Sarah Alma M.; **MANGROBANG**, Ma. Celesina C.; **MANINGAS**, Jesusa P.; **MANTALA**, Apollo S.; **MONTOJO**, Peter M.; **OLIVETE**, Antonio M.; **PALAMOS**, Gina B.; **PASIA**, Pio M.; **PELIÑO**, Divina Gracia L.; **QUINAGORAN**, Rowena DJ.; **QUIZON**, Rita E.; **RABANG**, Francisco P. III; **REYES**, Antonio C.; **SISCAR**, Josefina E.; **SULIT**, Cristina J.; **TIENZO**, Juanita C.; **TRIA**, Roslyn R.; **VASQUEZ**, Racquelen A. **PASIG CITY: (Br. 166 & 266) ACOSTA**, Louis P.; **AGBADA**, Genie G.; **AGUILAR**, Narciso M.; **ALTAREJOS**, Mateo B.; **ALZATE**, Laureano T.; **ANDOY**, Teresito A.; **ARENAS**, Santiago M.; **CALIS**, Elpidio R.; **CAPELLAN**, Mario B.; **CASTILLO**, Silverio Q.; **CEZAR**, Amorfina C.; **DELA CRUZ**, Eugenio G.; **DIAZ**, Augustus C.; **IGNALAGA**, Ma. Consejo G.; **ILAO**, Toribio E. Jr.; **JURADO**, Cicero D. Jr.; **LEGASPI**, Germano D.; **LIGAYA**, Merinnisa O.; **LIM**, Sarah Alma M.; **MACARAIG**, Virgilio V.; **MACATAÑGAY**, Esther P.; **MANTALA**, Apollo S.; **MAÑALAC**, Mary Ann C.; **MISLANG**, Rolando G.; **MONTOJO**, Peter M.; **OLIVETE**, Antonio M.; **PACULDO**, Lorenza B.; **PELIÑO**, Divina Gracia L.; **QUINAGORAN**, Rowena DJ; **RUIZ**, Joseph Cedrick O.; **SAN GABRIEL**, Ma. Teresa C.; **SINGH**, Maria Filomena D.; **SISCAR**, Josefina E.; **SOLUREN**, Corazon D.; **TIMOLA**, Wilfredo V.; **TRIA**, Roslyn R.; **VASQUEZ**, Racquelen A.; **VOLANTE**, William B.; **YANGA**, Armando A.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than July 13, 2007 to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512; Fax No. 552-9598; e-mail address: **jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph**).

All applicants for judicial positions must submit to the JBC ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1 (revised Oct. 2006) and proof of Filipino Citizenship.

July 03, 2007.

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS OF PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE JULY 21, 2007 PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY THE CONVERSION OF LAPU-LAPU CITY FROM A COMPONENT CITY INTO A HIGHLY-URBANIZED CITY, PURSUANT TO PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 1222 DATED JANUARY 23, 2007.

ABALOS, Benjamin S. — Chairman
BORRA, Resurreccion Z. — Commissioner
TUASON, Jr. Florentino A. — Commissioner
BRAWNER, Romeo A. — Commissioner
SARMIENTO, Rene V. — Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T. — Commissioner

Promulgated: 04 June 2007

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RESOLUTION NO. 8140

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, the Commission on Elections has RESOLVED to adopt, as it hereby RESOLVES to adopt, the following CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS OF PROHIBITED ACTS for the July 21, 2007 plebiscite to ratify the conversion of Lapu-Lapu City from a component city into a highly-urbanized city, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1222 dated January 23, 2007, as follows:

DATE/PERIOD	PLEBISCITE ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS/ PERIODS INVOLVED
June 25, 2007 (MON) to July 25, 2007 (WED)	PLEBISCITE PERIOD	1. Bearing, carrying or transporting firearms or other deadly weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyance, even if licensed to possess or carry the same unless authorized in writing by the Commission (Sec. 261 (p) (q) (s) OEC as amended by Sec. 32, RA 7166; 2. Suspension of Local elective officials (Sec. 261 (x), OEC); 3. Transfer of officers and employees in the Civil service (Sec. 261 (h), OEC); 4. Organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces or other similar forces (Sec. 261 (u), OEC).
June 25, 2007 (MON) to July 21, 2007 (SAT)		1. Appointment or hiring of new employees Sec. 261 (g), OEC); 2. Creation or filling-up of new positions (Sec. 261 (g), OEC); 3. Promotions or giving of salary increases, remuneration or privilege (Sec. Sec. 261 (g), OEC); 4. Construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants or similar devices for a future undertaking chargeable against public funds (Sec. 261 (w), OEC); 5. Releases, disbursement of expenditures of public works and social services and development (Sec. 261 (v), OEC); 6. Appointment or use of special policemen, special or confidential agents or the like (Sec. 261 (m), (r) OEC); 7. Use of armored land, water or aircraft (Sec. 261 (r) OEC); 8. Wearing of uniforms and bearing of arms (Sec. 261 (s), OEC);
June 30, 2007 (SAT) to July 19, 2007 (THURS)	CAMPAIGN PERIOD	
June 15, 2007 (FRI)	Last day for appointment of members of Plebiscite Committees and the City Plebiscite Board of Canvassers;	
June 30, 2007 (SAT) to July 21, 2007 (SAT)	Posting of the Posted Computerized List of Voters as of the May 14, 2007 National and Local Elections	
July 9, 2007 (MON) to July 13, 2007 (FRI)	Inspection of polling places	
July 20, 2007 (FRI)	EVE OF PLEBISCITE DAY	1. Campaigning (Sec. 3, OEC); 2. Giving, accepting free transportation, foods, drinks, and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC); 3. Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor (Sec. 261 (dd), OEC);
July 21, 2007 (SAT)	PLEBISCITE DAY	1. Cockfighting and other forms of gambling, holding fairs, boxing and/or any other similar sports (Sec. 261 (dd), OEC); 2. Giving, accepting free transportation, foods, drinks, and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC); 3. Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor (Sec. 261 (dd), OEC); 4. Opening of booths or stalls for the sale of merchandise, refreshment, etc., within a radius of 30 meters from polling place (Sec. 261 (dd) (2), OEC); 5. Campaigning (Sec. 3, OEC); 6. Soliciting votes or undertaking any propaganda for or against any candidate or any political party within the polling place or within thirty (30) meters thereof (Sec. 261 (cc), OEC); 7. Voting more than once or in substitution of another Sec. 261 (z) (2) and (3), OEC);
July 25, 2007 (WED)	LAST DAY OF PLEBISCITE PERIOD	

Let this Resolution be published by the Education and Information Department, one in a newspaper of general circulation, and one in a newspaper of local circulation in Lapu-Lapu City. The Deputy Executive Director for Operations shall furnish the Regional Election Director of Region VII; the Provincial Election Supervisor of Cebu; the Election Officer of Lapu-Lapu City; the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government; the Secretary of the Department of Justice; the Secretary of the Department of Education; the Provincial Governor of Cebu; the City Mayor, the City Prosecutor, the City Treasurer, and the DepEd Division Superintendent of Lapu-Lapu City, with a copy of this Resolution.

The EO of Lapu-Lapu City shall give this Resolution the widest publication in Lapu-Lapu City.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its publication.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

(PDI - July 5, 2007)

Kapatiran looking forward to 2010

"THE PARTICIPATION of Ang Kapatiran national political party for the first time in the 2007 elections symbolized the beginning of change as well as renewal for the country.

That was Nandy Pacheco's reply to a question by a group of lay persons in Cubao, Quezon City, on the party's participation in the last elections.

Pacheco, founder-secretary-general of Ang Kapatiran, said the party is now looking forward to the 2010 elections.

He cited a typical reaction received by the party after the elections: "Ang Kapatiran is a shaft of light on our grim political landscape. . .it has stirred the imagination of the idealistic sectors of society. . Ang Kapatiran must keep the fires of its ideals burning through the sustained flame of meaningful socio-political-spiritual involvement in the evangelization of governance and resurrection of righteousness."

"The smoke of battle is gone but our hope is very much alive, and our firm determination to continue the good fight remains strong as ever. Losing in the election was not the end of the world for Ang Kapatiran that continues to promote a platform-based politics," Pacheco said.

"In fact," he added, " we are very pleased with the high level of awareness and acceptance of the principles and platform of the party."

"Because their (*trapo*'s) thoughts are not our thoughts, their ways are not our ways, we were subjected to every kind of hardship and unkind remarks but we never distressed, we lacked resources but we never despaired, we were knocked down, but we still managed to get up.

Pacheco said Kapatiran will be having a workshop soon to do a general plan and strategy in preparation for the 2010 elections.

"I think reconnecting politics to moral values is the most important task of Ang Kapatiran party, he said.

GMA OKs dismissal of 54 Oakwood mutineers

Court-martial verdict upheld

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has approved the dismissal of 54 junior military officers implicated in the failed July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, the military said yesterday.

"(The President's approval) manifests that justice had been served and that the military justice system is fair and reasonable as it is harsh," military spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said.

"Military adventurism has no place in a democratic society, it will not be tolerated and that disciplinary action will in all cases be clear, swift and decisive," he said.

The 54 officers will be dishonorably discharged from the military, with no benefits, when they complete their imprisonment in January, Bacarro said.

A military court-martial had earlier recommended the dishonorable discharge from the military service of the 54 renegade officers.

Bacarro said President Macapagal-Arroyo approved last June 12 the verdict handed down by the general court-martial presided by Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Legaspi.

The 54 officers made a plea bargain agreement with a court-martial last April, resulting in a reduction of their jail term from seven to four years. They have been in custody since the mutiny and the detention will count as time served.

The junior officers are scheduled to be released at noon of Jan. 27, 2008.

"We can see that there is an admission of guilt on the part of the non-core group," Bacarro said, in explaining the implication of the move taken by the 54 junior officers to enter into a plea bargain agreement.

"They pleaded guilty that they are part of the Magdalo group and this will have big implications to the core group," he said.

The 54 junior officers were among 300 Magdalo soldiers who took over the posh Oakwood Premier serviced apartments and a nearby shopping center in Makati's financial district in July 2003, rigging the area with bombs and demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation.

They denounced government and military corruption, but were accused of staging a failed coup. They surrendered after the daylong uprising.

During plea bargaining in the Oakwood case, the 54 officers agreed to withdraw their previous pleas of not guilty to several charges, including mutiny and sedition. They also pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of military misconduct.

The deal was approved by the court-martial, which handed them the reduced jail term of four years and dishonorable discharge without benefits.

Among the leaders of the failed mutiny were former Navy lieutenant and now Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, Capt. Gerardo Gambala and Capt. Milo Maestrocampo. But these leaders were not among the 54 junior military officers who were ordered dishonorably discharged from the service.

Trillanes, who has since left the military service to run for a Senate seat in May, did not join the plea bargaining and remains in a military jail, fighting coup charges in civilian and military courts. He has asked for permission to attend Senate sessions, but there has been no court ruling yet.

Trillanes and 28 other junior military officers who are said to be the core group of the Magdalo were tried separately from the 61 junior military officers, which included the 54.

Bacarro said the general court-martial will continue hearing the case of the seven who did not join their 54 colleagues in reversing their original plea of not guilty.

He said the seven would still face the original charges of the five Articles of War. These include violation of Articles of War 63 (disrespect toward the President, Vice President, Congress or the Secretary of National Defense), 64 (disrespect toward a superior officer), 67 (mutiny or sedition), 96 (conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman) and 97 (conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline).

Another co-accused in the 2003 mutiny, former Army colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, also won a Senate seat. The Justice Department dropped a coup charge against him after he recently made peace overtures to Arroyo.

RED, WHITE AND BLUE
A protester rallies from behind the colors of the US and Philippine flags near the US Embassy to denounce the "RP-US Partnership of Terror." His group is protesting the impending implementation of the antiterrorism law. REM ZAMORA

Gov't neutral on Ang's bid for US trip

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN A neutral stance on Charlie "Atong" Ang's 20-day vacation in Las Vegas, Nevada he scheduled next weekend.

Ang, who is under probation, plans to leave the country on July 15 and stay in the United States with his family until August 5 and also allow him to pay off debts he incurred since his arrest in 2002.

The convicted former "consultant" of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada was allowed by the Sandiganbayan last May to go free but on probation for the next two years after pleading guilty to a lesser offense in the plunder charges filed against Estrada.

The prosecution yesterday said that should the antigraft court grant Ang's travel request, he would temporarily be removed from the supervision of the probation officer and control of the court, thus, may open the "flood gates" for the violation of probation conditions.

While under probation, Ang was required by the antigraft court to report to a probation officer every month and plant either *molave, yakal, narra* or mahogany every two months at the Quezon City Circle or LaMesa Dam Watershed.

Ang was also required to find a fixed source of income and should not associate himself with persons of questionable character.

But the prosecution did not say that it was opposing Ang's plan to travel to the US. It merely stated in its comment filed with the court yesterday that if his motion will be granted, it will ask the court to deduct the period of his travel from his two-year probation. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

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Per CAB approval dated July 3, 2007

Media may be bugged; bishop fears terror law

From page A1

secretary said. "The fact that your source is a terrorist does not make you a terrorist per se."

"But if the journalist is now a suspect, then he can be wiretapped. You have first to be a suspect," Gonzalez said.

He said a person was considered a terror suspect if he was "contaminated."

"For example, there is suspicion against you. You are now part of the group that is planning to terrorize, to do harm to the state," he said.

Gonzalez also said that being a leftist did not automatically make someone a terrorist.

"Nobody is immune to the possibility of wiretapping but it must be predicated on the fact that he is a suspect," Gonzalez said.

A dangerous law

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Yñiguez branded the law as dangerous.

"The antiterror law will lead to greater tumult, especially when used to deal with those who do not agree with government's thinking," Yñiguez said in an interview over Catholic-owned Radio Veritas.

The bishop noted the law's stringent measures against those suspected of terrorism, which covers offenses ranging from coup d'etat and piracy to manufacture of explosives and highway robbery.

Activists fear that the law could be easily abused because of its broad definition of terrorism, including creating fear among the people.

The HSA was scheduled to take effect in the middle of the month, but Deputy National Security Council Adviser Pedro Cabuay on Tuesday said its implementation was likely to be postponed.

According to Cabuay, the law's implementing rules and regulations have yet to be formulated and public discussions on its ramifications have to be conducted.

Besides, the HSA, or Republic Act No. 9372, "An Act to Secure the State and Protect our People from Terrorism," has not been published in a newspaper of general circulation.

The government is scheduled to hold a nationwide information campaign about the features of the law, starting with Cagayan de Oro on July 8-10.

Martial law powers?

Yñiguez said that based on what he heard from others, the government would be given martial law powers.

The bishop wished Congress and the Supreme Court would take more pains to review the law.

"Otherwise, it will be the occasion for so many abuses, especially with the way the government is being run nowadays," he said.

Travel restriction

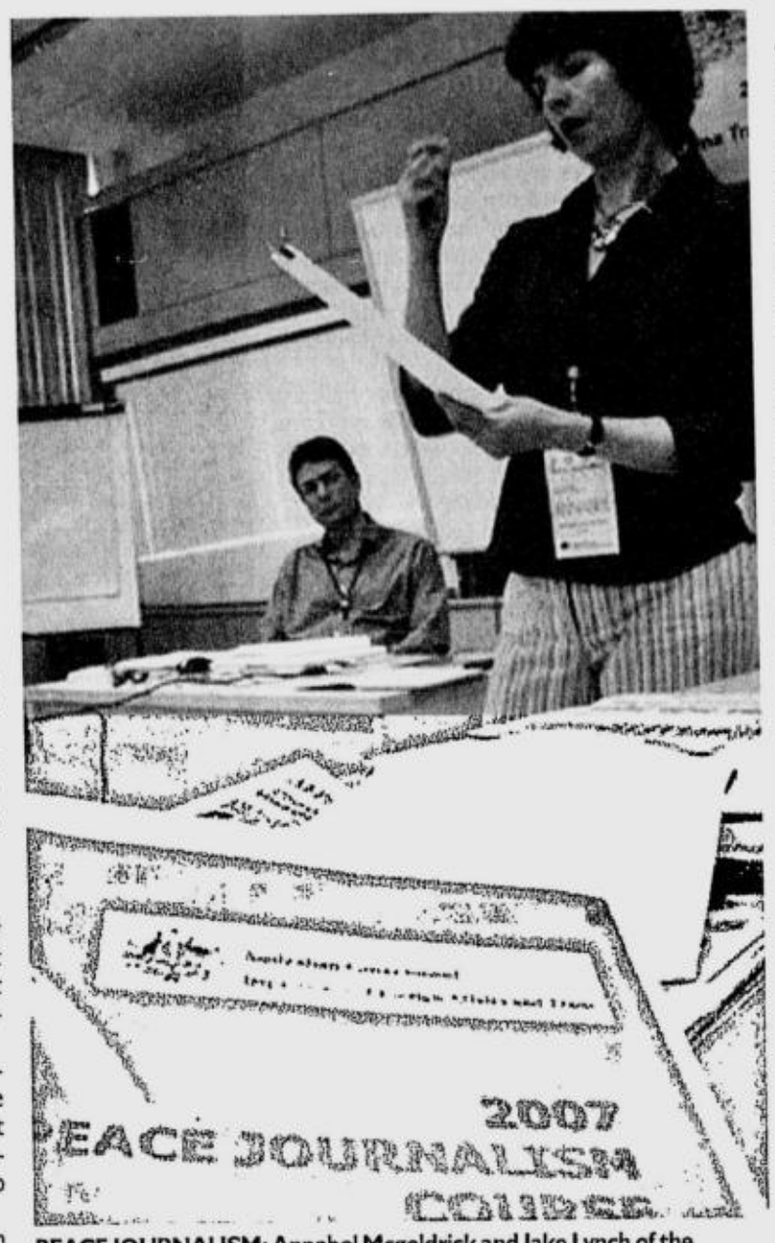
Yñiguez expressed concern over the interpretation and enforcement of the HSA's Section 19 and 26 that deal with detention of and travel restrictions on terror suspects.

"These provisions are dangerous to the citizens, and could be used by people in the government who have no conscience to persecute those that they consider to be enemies," he said.

Under Section 26, the person charged with the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to terrorism is entitled to bail when the evidence of guilt is not strong.

However, the court, upon the petition of the prosecutor, may limit the right of the accused to travel. The suspect may be prohibited from leaving the city or municipality where he is living unless permitted by the court.

The suspect may also be placed under house arrest by the court, during which he may not use telephones, cell phones, e-mail, computers, the Internet or other means of communication until otherwise ordered by the court.



PEACE JOURNALISM: Annabel Mcgoldrick and Jake Lynch of the University of Sydney and the British Broadcasting Corp. lecture on peace journalism to 11 Filipino journalists in Tagaytay City. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Section 19 says that in the event of an actual or imminent terrorist attack, the suspects may not be detained for more than three days without the written approval of a municipal, city, provincial or regional official of a Human Rights Commission or judge of the municipal, regional trial court, the Sandiganbayan or a justice of the Court of Appeals nearest the place of the arrest.

If the arrest is made during Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or after office hours, the arresting police or law enforcement personnel shall bring the suspect to the home of any of the officials mentioned that is nearest the place where the accused was arrested.

The approval in writing by any of the officials must be obtained by the police or law enforcement personnel within five days after the date of the detention of the suspect.

If within three days after the detention and the suspect's connection with the terror attack or threat is not established, he or she shall be released immediately.

List of terrorists

The country has no list of terrorists except those recognized by the United States and the European community, according to Gonzalez.

Asked if the Philippines would adopt these lists, he said "yes."

Based on evidence

He said that being considered a terror suspect should be based on evidence.

Authorities should study well reports stating that a person is a suspect before court permission is sought for the wiretapping, the justice secretary said.

"When you say he's a suspect, it's not just because somebody whispered to you that this fellow is a terrorist. That will have to be done through proper investigation," he said.

Appeals court's permission

After the investigation is over, authorities, including the Department of Justice, should file a petition at the Court of Appeals seeking permission for the wiretapping.

Gonzalez said he was required to write a letter to the Supreme Court asking it to designate the Court of Appeals division that would be authorized to rule on requests for wiretapping.

Under the HSA, the petition can be filed without the need to inform the concerned party so as not to defeat the purpose of the request.

Asked why government officials were not exempted from being bugged, Gonzalez said even people in public service could be traitors. But he said the President should not be wiretapped because she could not be sued.

Excessive

Asked if members of the communist-led National Democratic Front could be wiretapped, the justice secretary said: "I suppose so, as long as there's a clear definition that we consider them terrorists."

The Human Security Act has safeguards against its abuse, like paying P500,000 in damages for every day that someone is detained or arrested without a warrant. Gonzalez considered the hefty fine "practically violative of the Constitution."

"The Constitution speaks of no excessive fines. But here, one offense is already worth P500,000. So this is one of the safeguards in place," he said.

'Virtual' nameless, faceless con artists log on to your cash

From page A1

The scheme is being marketed via the websites http://www.francswiss.biz/ and http://deutchfrancs.com, or through a person, who is either already "enrolled" or has put in money in the program.

Prospective investors are asked to invest $1,000 in francswiss.biz and $10,000 in deutchfrancs.com.

The investor can earn a 10-percent commission if he or she recruits two more people.

From there, investors are just expected to sit back and enjoy returns, which are "guaranteed" to go up to as high as 270 percent in 60 days.

Or so it seems.

Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas told the INQUIRER that the central bank, in coordination with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange and National Bureau of Investigation, would release an advisory shortly to warn the public about this online scam and other "high-yield investment programs" proliferating on the Internet.

Ponzi scheme

These are Internet Ponzi schemes, according to Tetangco. Ponzi schemes promise abnormally high returns that are paid, not through income generated from any real business, but from money coming in from new investors.

Like the pyramiding schemes that swept the country a few years ago, this kind of business requires an ever-increasing stream of cash to survive. It's doomed to fail because Ponzi operators usually disappear when they think the government is after them or because they find it hard to pay the promised astronomical returns when the incoming stream of investments slows down.

"We are aware of these schemes and we are already looking into this," Tetangco said.

Multitel

In the late 1990s, Rose Baladjay's Multinational Telecom Investors Corp. (Multitel) was allegedly able to dupe investors of between P20 billion and P25 billion.

Ervin and Evelyn Mateo, owners of the Mateo Management Group Holdings, allegedly gypped over 30,000 investors of at least P4.3 billion.

The Tibayan Group Investment Co. Inc., owned by Jesus Tibayan, allegedly defrauded between 8,000 and 10,000 investors of at least P2 billion.

Finance blog

MoneySmarts, a personal finance blog on Inquirer.net (http://www.inquirerbloggers.net/moneysmarts), wrote that the two websites could be more dangerous than previous scams because these are run by "virtual" con artists—nameless and faceless.

They will be difficult to track and have, in fact, pulled down the websites of Suise Financials and Deutchfrancs right after MoneySmarts published an article about them.

These websites have been known to disappear without any trace, only to come back online under a new business name and a redesigned website.

Suise Financials and Deutchfrancs did not reveal contact addresses and phone numbers on their websites, have no specific investment products, and promised unrealistic returns.

Overseas Filipinos

Discussions in the online blog on Inquirer.net showed that Filipinos are investing their hard-earned money, some of which are borrowed, and that many of them are overseas Filipino workers.

Some, like "cybermillionaire," believe that such high-yield investment programs are merely investment games that should be played by people willing to take risks.

"When somebody introduced me to this kind of investment, I gambled my $5,000 without checking whether it's a scam or what. I know it's risky! But how could you earn if you don't risk your money. People, if you can't afford to invest, just keep your mouth shut, OK! This is a game of gamblers. You might win or lose. If you lose, not good for you. If you win, good for you," he said.

These investment schemes, however, can seriously hamper the growth of financial markets because they tend to burn new investors and savers, who could have been new investors in legitimate financial instruments like bonds, stocks, mutual funds and structured bank instruments.

Malaysia, another country that has been victimized by Ponzi operators Swisscash.net and SwissMutualFund.biz, which are similar to Suise Financials and Deutchfrancs.com, has banned these websites.

The Malaysian Securities Commission blocked access to the websites starting June 11. ***With a report from Kate Pedroso***

IN THE KNOW

Ponzi schemes

PONZI SCHEMES ARE A TYPE OF illegal pyramid scheme named for Charles Ponzi, who duped thousands of New England residents into investing in a postage stamp speculation scheme back in the 1920s.

Ponzi thought he could take advantage of differences between US and foreign currencies used to buy and sell international mail coupons.

Ponzi told investors that he could provide a 40-percent return in just 90 days compared with 5 percent for bank savings accounts. Ponzi was deluged with funds from investors, taking in $1 million during one three-hour period—and this was 1921!

Though a few early investors were paid off to make the scheme look legitimate, an investigation found that Ponzi had only purchased about $30 worth of the international mail coupons.

Decades later, the Ponzi scheme continues to work on the "rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul" principle, as money from new investors is used to pay off earlier investors until the whole scheme collapses.

(Source: US Securities and Exchange Commission)

THE SCAM was named after its founder and most outstanding practitioner, Charles Ponzi.

7/7/07: When superstition, marketing converge

From page A1

the proclamation of the world's seven new wonders are scheduled to take place on that day.

"Number 7 has a magic sacred side and the reputation of bringing luck," said numerologist Jean-Daniel Fermier. Therefore, several sevens could only bring an extra dose of good fortune.

"Number 7 is the union of 4, symbol of matter, and of 3, symbol of the spirit," explained Fermier, author of a French guide to numerology.

"A priori, July 7, 2007, is a good date for a wedding. The marriage may stand a better chance of success, though of course the date is no guarantee."

Among the crowds of lovers set to wed that day are the celebrity couple Eva ("Desperate Housewives") Longoria and French basketball hero Tony Parker of the San Antonio Spurs. Both celebrities are said to be superstitious.

Parker said in Paris this week that it was Longoria who chose the grandiose chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte outside Paris as the setting for their July 7 marriage.

"Personally I don't care (where we get married). I've been talking about it every day for the last seven months. It's a girl's day," he said.

70,000 weddings in US

As early as March, a member of a US wedding planning site told Agence France Presse that more than 30,000 weddings had already been planned for July 7. In ordinary years, only 12,000 couples would choose a Saturday in July for their marriage.

"This is the biggest day I've seen in recent years," said Kathleen Murray, deputy editor of theknot.com.

But David's Bridal, the largest US retailer of wedding gowns, said it would deliver a record 20,000 gowns for brides in July 7 weddings.

The record figure is double the peak figure in a normal year, and David's Bridal estimates some 65,000 to 70,000 weddings have been planned across America on July 7.

Even those impulsive types seeking to elope in the US wedding capital of Las Vegas are likely to be disappointed, with the city's wedding chapels all booked up.

The Chapel of Flowers alone has 113 weddings planned for Saturday, around three times the normal figure.

In Paris, one of the city's major department stores, Galeries Lafayette, said it had received 774 wedding lists for 7/7/07, against an average of 290 for each of the 13 Saturdays from July to September.

"Reservations for this particular date were made long in advance," said Sonya Willigsecker of Ceremonia, a small French wedding planning company. "We have had to turn down at least 40 couples for this date," she added.

Casino gimmicks

Would-be couples who organized too late can always try their luck in a casino or buying a lottery ticket instead, however.

In casinos, where 777 wins the jackpot in one-armed bandits, managers are offering special July 7 deals, such as an overnight luxury stay with spa and dinner for $777, or the night of your life for $7,777.

In France, the state-owned lottery is offering a seven-million-euro prize on 7/7/07.

"We expect four to five million people to buy tickets in comparison with three million for an ordinary draw," a spokesperson at the Française des Jeux told AFP.

7 new wonders

But interestingly, Friday 13 this July will do better. The French lottery will offer a 15-million-euro prize.

July 7 is also the date chosen to announce the results of a contest to choose the seven new wonders of the world.

Swiss-Canadian filmmaker Bernard Weber, a former assistant to Italian filmmaking legend Federico Fellini, has launched a website where Internet users can vote and choose the world's "new seven wonders."

Among sites short-listed are the Eiffel Tower, the Acropolis in Athens and the Great Wall of China. The Greek historian Herodotus chose the original seven, which included the hanging gardens of Babylon, the statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Colossus of Rhodes and the lighthouse of Alexandria.

And for those more interested in preserving the future than the past, the global Live Earth concerts funding Al Gore's foundation against global warming also take place on July 7. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

More than seven cities, however, are involved in the global concert—among them notably Tokyo, Shanghai, Sydney, Johannesburg, Rio de Janeiro, London, New York, Hamburg and Istanbul.

Pure nonsense

But one academic brushed off the 7/7/07 frenzy as pure nonsense.

"7/7/07 is not pertinent," said Jean-Pierre Brach, a professor of esoteric studies at Paris' eminent Institute of Higher Studies (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes).

"A number must be interpreted within a given historical context," Brach said.

The media fuss over July 7, he added, was no more than "divinatory numerology invented in the 19th century and popularized worldwide by the Americans." *AFP*

UN seeks stricter measures to ensure safer milk formula

By Amy R. Remo

THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD standards commission is seeking stricter measures to ensure safer infant powdered formula based on new scientific findings.

This is one of the issues before the Codex Alimentarius Commission, a body jointly set up by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in a six-day meeting started on Monday in Rome.

The Codex Alimentarius, or the international food code, has become the global reference point for consumers, food producers and processors, national food control agencies and the international food trade.

Representatives from more than 100 countries are attending the sessions, according to the Codex website.

In particular, the UN commission will reconsider the 1981 standards on infant formula, which was based on scientific knowledge from the 1970s.

The revised standards for infant formula will be based on the latest scientific findings, possibly including new warnings that need to be printed on labels.

"It is extremely important that these formula are safe and properly labeled. The proposed standards will help save many infant lives in countries around the world," said a statement by Dr. Jorgen Schlundt, director of the WHO department of food safety, zoonoses and food-borne diseases.

"It is important to support breast-feeding and promote its benefits to infants and young children," said Schlundt,

"However, in some instances, breast-feeding is either not possible or not appropriate. In these cases, one of the dietary options is the use of powdered formula," he said.

Schlundt stressed that powdered infant formula is "not a sterile product and can be contaminated with life-threatening bacteria."

In the Philippines, around 50 nongovernment organizations have banded together to help promote breast-feeding and support the implementation of the revised rules and regulations of the milk code.

One of the provisions requires milk companies to put labels warning that their products may contain life-threatening bacteria like enterobacter sakazakii and salmonella.

The provision was consistent with the findings of experts from the FAO and WHO, said Health Secretary Francisco Duque III in previous reports. The controversial local code makes it harder for milk companies to target parents with advertising that claims, for example, that formula milk will make babies smarter.

According to WHO, breast-feeding is declining across Asia, with just 35 percent of mothers breast-feeding exclusively during their baby's first six months.

Research has shown that babies given breast milk develop fewer respiratory and intestinal diseases, and those given formula have a greater chance of developing asthma, allergies and obesity, the WHO said.

Pinay's death in Singapore ruled a suicide

SINGAPORE—A SINGAPORE CORONER'S court has ruled as suicide a Filipino maid's plunge from a high rise building after a dispute with her former lesbian lover, a report said Wednesday.

Sharon Villanel Pino, 28, died after leaping from the 18th floor of a building on June 30 last year after a fight with Stella Abella Concepcion, also 28, The Straits Times reported.

Coroner Ronald Gwee said Pino had left suicide notes and "solely and voluntarily" hurled herself over the edge of the apartment where Concepcion worked.

The women, both employed as maids in the wealthy city-state, had been in a relationship since April 2005, newspaper said.

It quoted Concepcion as vowing "there will be death if one of us cheated on the other." But in June last year, Concepcion found a boyfriend and decided to end the relationship with Pino, the report said. *AFP*

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Noli cites RP urban growth plan

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES IS ALREADY implementing a world-class policy on urban growth which is very much similar to the recommendation of the United Nations, Vice President Noli de Castro said.

Speaking at the launching of the State of the World Population Report made by the UN Population Fund in Makati recently, De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Developing Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said the 100-page UN report identified three initiatives to promote urban development.

These are respecting the rights of the poor, the use of urban space and the collective effort from the international community.

"I am sure that you will be surprised that many of the policies that you recommend have in fact been implemented in the Philippines," De Castro told UN representatives led by Nilima Nobol and Suneeta Mukherjee and other guests from the international community, local governments and nongovernment organizations.

He said the need to adopt policies that support in-city or city-near town relocation and community-led development were already in place in the country.

"This is precisely the framework that we used in the resettlement program for informal settlers along the right-of-way of the Northrail and the Southrail. The same framework shall be used to the rest of the government's resettlement projects," he stressed.

De Castro cited the need for a longer-term and broader use of urban space and to provide minimally serviced land for housing known in the Philippine housing sector as "incremental development."

He said incremental development has been proven in the community mortgage program (CMP), one of the government's banner program for shelter security that enables urban poor communities to buy the lots where their house are located.

De Castro told the UN delegates that the Philippines does not only respect the rights of the poor, "we also acknowledge and put to good use the wisdom and the lessons that can be gained from their experiences."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 5, 2007
13th Week in Ordinary Time
Anthony Zaccaria

1st Reading: Gen 22:1-19
Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus got back into the boat, crossed the lake again, and came to his hometown. Here they brought a paralyzed man to him, lying on a bed. Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralytic, "Courage, my son! Your sins are forgiven."

Then some teachers of the Law said to themselves, "This man insults God." Jesus was aware of what they were thinking, and said, "Why have you such evil thoughts? Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Stand up and walk'? You must know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." He then said to the paralyzed man, "Stand up! Take your stretcher and go home." The man got up, and went home.

When the crowds saw this, they were filled with awe and praised God for giving such power to human beings.

Commentary

God tests Abraham. He has promised him land and a nation peopled with his descendants. And God now asks for Isaac, Abraham's beloved child. Abraham obeys and takes Isaac to be sacrificed. God stays his hand—teaching Abraham and all nations that God does not want our children in sacrifice (or anyone's child) and that if we trust the Lord then, in the Lord's ways and time, his promises will be fulfilled. Abraham believed. Do we? And what do we refuse to give over to God in our life?

Some friends of a paralyzed man bring him to Jesus, and Jesus forgives the man because of their faith. But others are furious at Jesus for forgiving the man—accepting him as he is. At the time of Jesus it was commonly thought that you suffered illness or paralysis because of sins that you or your family had committed. Jesus heals the man, pushing those who were heartless to the man's condition (and so many others) to examine themselves on whether healing or forgiveness is harder. What do you think?

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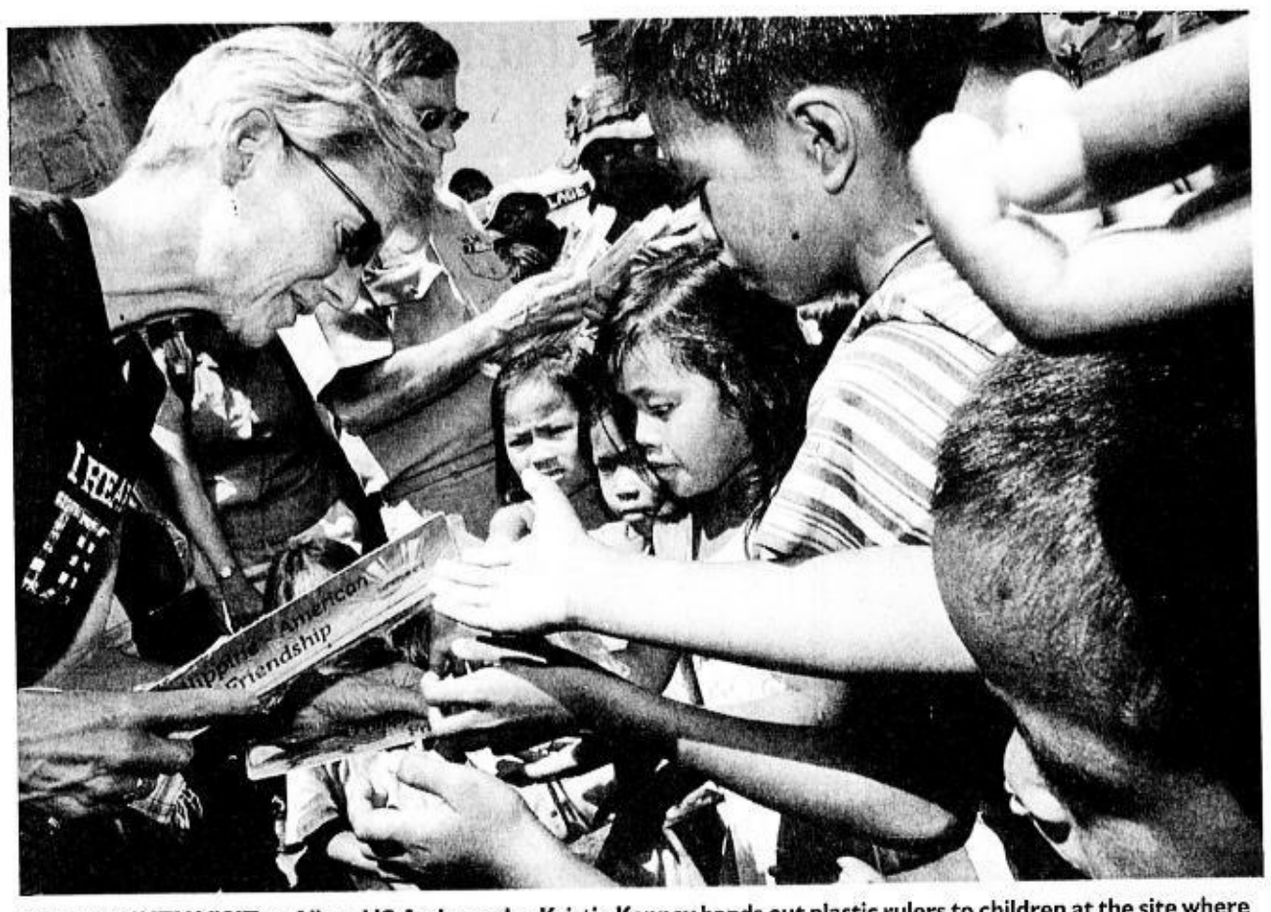
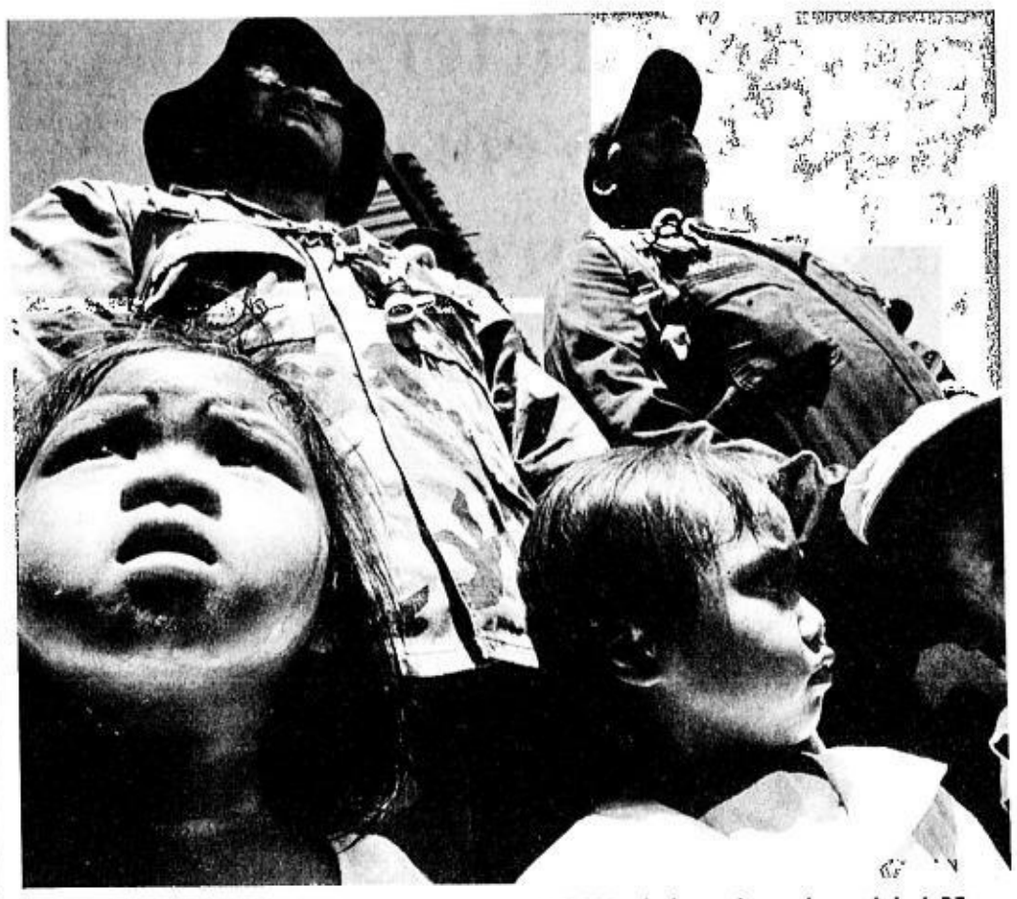


ON HER SIXTH VISIT to Albay, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney hands out plastic rulers to children at the site where 35 homes are being built by US troops and announces a $5-million aid package for rebuilding typhoon ravaged areas in Bicol. *(Story on Page A9.)* EDWIN BACASMAS



RP-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY: To mark the US' 231st independence day on July 4, 35 new homes in Ligao, Bicol, are being built by more than 50 US Navy men for families left homeless by Supertyphoon Reming last year. EDWIN BACASMAS

SC upholds 20% discount for elderly

From page A1

of Botica dela Serna and Leyte Serv-Well Corp., who said, among others, that the tax deductions they could claim for giving discounts to senior citizens did not fully reimburse them.

'Confiscatory'

The drugstore owners said the provision in the Expanded Senior Citizens Act (or Republic Act No. 9257) was confiscatory in light of the constitutional provision stating that private property could not be taken for public use without just compensation.

They also said the provision deprived them of property without due process and violated the constitutional guarantee making essential goods and health services available to all people.

The drugstore owners said they were losing profit and capital because they imposed a markup of only 5 to 10 percent on branded medicines, and because the law did not provide a scheme where they could be justly compensated for the discounts.

The tax-deduction scheme, based on an opinion of the Department of Finance, does not afford drugstores full reimbursement because the discount is treated as a tax-deductible expense subtracted from the gross income.

Noted the high court: "Being a tax deduction, the discount does not reduce taxes owed on a peso for peso basis but merely offers a fractional reduction in taxes owed."

IN THE KNOW

Range of benefits for Pinoys 60 and above

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, ALSO KNOWN AS THE expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003, defines a senior citizen as a resident Filipino who is at least 60 years old.

He/she is entitled to a range of benefits such as:

- A 20-percent discount in all establishments including hotels and similar lodging establishments, restaurants and recreation centers, as well as on medicines in all drugstores, and on funeral and burial services.
- At least 20-percent discount on admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses, carnivals, and other similar places of culture, leisure and amusement.
- Exemption from the payment of individual income tax as long as it is not above the poverty level set by the National and Economic Development Authority for the year.
- Free medical and dental service, diagnostic and laboratory fees such as X-rays, computerized tomography scans and blood tests in all government facilities.
- A 20-percent discount on medical and dental services, and diagnostic and laboratory fees including professional fees of attending doctors in all private hospitals and medical facilities.
- A 20-percent discount on fares for domestic air and sea travel.
- A 20-percent discount in public railways, skyways and bus fare.
- Educational assistance in the form of scholarships, grants, and financial aid subsidies to pursue post-secondary, tertiary, post-tertiary, vocational or technical education in both public and private schools. (This also includes support for books, learning materials, and uniform allowance, to the extent feasible.)

To avail themselves of these benefits, a senior citizen is required to show proof that he/she is a Filipino citizen and at least 60 years old.

These may include the following: an ID card issued by the city or municipal mayor or the barangay captain of the place of residence, a passport, or other pertinent documents. *Inquirer Research*

Theoretically, it said, this reduced the net income of the drugstore owners.

But it pointed out that the law was intended to grant senior citizens benefits and privileges to improve their well-being and maximize their contribution to improving society.

Police power

The tribunal said it recognized that the pharmaceutical industry was a business. But it added that in exercising its police power, the state could step in and ask business operators to partly subsidize a government program to promote the welfare of senior citizens.

The Constitution itself also states that the government should improve the welfare of senior citizens, it said.

"While the Constitution protects property rights, petitioners must accept the realities of business, and the State, in the exercise of police power, can intervene in the operations of a business which may result in an impairment of property rights in the process," it said, adding:

"The law is a legitimate exercise of police power which, similar to the power of eminent domain, has general welfare for its object.

"For this reason, when the conditions so demand as determined by the legislature, property rights must bow to the primacy of police power because property rights, though sheltered by due process, must yield to general welfare."

Invalidating the law on the 20-percent discount just because drugstores lose earnings will also "dilute" the use of police power to promote the common good, the tribunal further said.

Computation

According to the high court, the drugstore owners also failed to come up with a financial report to show that the tax-deduction scheme had put them at a disadvantage.

It said that while the computation presented by the drugstore owners tried to show losses based on a per-transaction basis, this would not hold because it was an income statement that would accurately reflect the discount's effect on their income.

"In addition, the computation was erroneously based on the assumption that their customers consisted wholly of senior citizens," it added.

The tribunal also said the drugstore owners could not use as an argument against the law their inability to raise the prices of their medicines because of the tight competition in the industry.

"It is a business decision on the part of petitioners to peg the markup at 5 percent. Selling the medicines below acquisition cost, as alleged by petitioners, is merely a result of this decision," it said.

Angara hails SC decision

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. EDGARDO ANGARA, AUthor of the Senior Citizens Act (or RA 7431), hailed the Supreme Court for its decision.

"The elderly members of our society have already served and made valuable contributions to the country. It is our duty to repay their services by making life easier and more comfortable for them," Angara said in a statement.

The reelected senator said that early this year, he met with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and then Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Buñag to discuss the possible exemption of the elderly from the 12-percent expanded value-added tax, which "prevents [them] from fully enjoying the benefits of the Senior Citizens Act."

"Instead of trying to bend the laws to protect the interests of private enterprises, we need to come up with better laws that will provide health care and social services to the more than 6 million senior citizens," he said.

Angara also said that as he promised during his electoral campaign, he had filed a bill seeking to exempt senior citizens from the 12-percent VAT.

US WWII hero returns here to visit sites closest to his heart

From page A1

Owen wept as wreaths were aid for Carl at a memorial, and a band played the Philippine and American anthems, and Taps. After the brief ceremonies, he was wheeled to a wall—and saw his brother's name etched on it.

"He was very moved, he cried," Dean said. "There was a band, there was a wreath of flowers, and they had some Filipino veterans there about his age that he could talk to."

"It was wonderful, it really was. It was a great honor and it brought back memories. It was very touching."

After Japanese forces bombed the US Pacific fleet on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, Owen, then 17, and older brothers Carl and Charles left their home in Fort Worth, Texas, and enlisted in the war.

500 kills

Trained as a fighter pilot, the young Owen was deployed to the Asia-Pacific theater and eventually to the Philippines, as part of the 475th Group of the Army Air Corps.

Between December 1942 and 1944, he flew a P38 Lightning fighter plane and was stationed in Leyte, Mindoro, Clark Air Base in Pampanga, and Pangasinan.

"We shot down over 500 Japanese planes," Owen, white haired and wearing glasses, told his son in hushed tones as they waited inside a Manila Bay terminal for a boat that would ferry them to Corregidor island.

MEMORIES: In his late teens, Owen was already a combatant in a global war. In this picture from his album, he appeared to be planting outside his tent.

IN THE KNOW

Rescue mission inspires $100-M Hollywood film

AFTER THE FALL OF CORREGIDOR ON May 6, 1942, Japanese soldiers starved their Filipino and American captives for a week, then hauled them ashore in freighters and drove them like cattle through the streets of Manila to celebrate their triumph.

Then, the prisoners were crammed into oven-like steel boxcars and sent to an unfinished Philippine Army camp in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija.

Slow starvation

In the camp, most of the 10,000 prisoners suffered from multiple diseases, including dysentery, beriberi, malaria, scurvy and pellagra—aggravated by slow starvation.

By the end of their first two months in captivity, 2,000 prisoners of war had died.

A daring raid on the camp on Jan. 30, 1945, led by Lt. Col. Henry A. Mucci of the US 6th Ranger Battalion, resulted in the liberation of 516 POWs.

Filipino guerrillas

Filipino guerrillas Eduardo Joson and Juan Pajota played critical roles during the assault on the camp. They provided intelligence and route security, and suggested to the Americans to use their P-61 Black Widow plane to make a low flyby at the onset of the raid to distract the Japanese sentries and tower guards.

The Filipinos' exploits are noted in US and Philippine military lore.

A National Historical Institute marker at the site of the camp describes the operation as "one of the most daring and successful rescue missions of its type in the annals of military history."

The rescue inspired a $100-million Hollywood movie production, "The Great Raid." Actor Cesar Montano played the role of Pajota in the film. *Schatzi Quodala, Inquirer Research*

"On Christmas Day of 1944, I shot down two Japanese planes."

Surrender to the Japanese

During his stint in the Philippines, Owen said he shot down five enemy planes but only four were confirmed. He brought home several medals, including a Distinguished Flying Cross.

Had the fifth downing been confirmed, he would have been designated an ace.

At around the same time, Carl was serving in the infantry under Gen. Douglas MacArthur and fighting Japanese soldiers on the ground.

Carl was among more than 70,000 Filipino and American soldiers who surrendered to the Japanese Army and were forced to walk for 144 km from Mariveles, Bataan, to Camp O'Donnell, a prison camp in Tarlac, in April 1942.

3rd brother fought in Europe

In the "Death March," thousands died from beatings, execution, malaria, heat, dehydration and dysentery. Carl survived but died of dysentery in the Cabanatuan camp, where the American prisoners were moved in June 1942. His body was flown back home and buried in his hometown.

Owen said he shot down a plane over Cabanatuan during the war, but was unaware that Carl had been taken to a camp there. They never had contact during the war.

Their other brother, Charles, joined the infantry in Europe and fought the Germans in the "Battle of the Bulge" on the Germany-Belgium border from December 1944 to January 1945. He also survived the war.

After returning home from the war, Owen married his girlfriend Betty, with whom he has three children, and went to college at the Texas Christian University, earning a degree in Physics. He landed his first civilian job at the Welex oil company.

100 most influential

He invented a safe charge designed for perforating oil wells, and became known for it. He and a partner started their own company, Gearhart-Owen Industries. He left to form another firm, and invented many other oil tools.

That time, only eight companies worldwide manufactured "shaped charges" and Owen owned three of these companies, including Owen Oil Tools. Charges were launched into gas wells to fracture the underground formation and allow oil to flow.

Owen was named by Hart Publications as one of the 100 most influential people in the oil industry in the last 100 years along with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and American industrialist John D. Rockefeller.

His gulf, his beach

After the trip to the Cabanatuan prison camp, the Owens drove to Lingayen Gulf in Pangasinan, where the young pilot used to take dips in between missions during the war.

"They would go swimming to the Gulf and he liked that. He wanted to see the beach, see his Gulf," Dean said, recalling his father's tales of fun during the war.

During their brief visit, the Owens also toured Corregidor island, used by MacArthur as Allied headquarters during the war, and visited the Manila American Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio, Makati.

They also met with some college students in Mindanao whom the Owens family was helping financially in their schooling.

"He's really glad he came," Dean said. "It's a sentimental journey."

US envoy pledges $5-M typhoon aid for Bicol

By Ephraim Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—UNITED STATES AMBASsador Kristie Kenney pledged $5-million in typhoon reconstruction assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) during her visit here yesterday marking Philippine-American Friendship Day.

Kenney said the money would be used to fund humanitarian programs to be implemented by the International Organization for Migration and Save the Children, both nongovernment organizations.

She added that the funds would also be used to construct 1,000 more houses and 10 community centers for villagers displaced by the series of strong typhoons that hit the region last year, as well as water sanitation projects.

The typhoon assistance agreement between the Philippine government and the USAID was signed during a short ceremony attended by Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, Camarines Sur Gov. L-Ray Villafuerte, and Social Welfare and Development Undersecretary Alicia Bala.

Kenney, wearing jeans and rubber shoes, said in her speech that July 4, which was also the 231st US Independence Day, should be celebrated by continuing to build the friendship between the two countries.

Optimistic, resilient

She praised Bicolanos for being "very optimistic and resilient" despite the series of disasters that hit the region.

On behalf of Project Handclasp, a California-based charity group, Kenney and US Navy Vice Admiral Crowder, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, turned over relief goods to the Simon of Cyrene Children's Rehabilitation and Development Foundation for distribution to communities in Bicol.

The goods included medical supplies, clothing, beddings, food, kitchen supplies, sewing machines, toys and sports equipment.

Kenney and Crowder also cut the ceremonial ribbon for 35 new houses built for displaced families at the Honest Anislag Transition Center.

The houses were build by 50 US Navy sailors in partnership with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Daughters of Charity, and Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul.

Villafuerte acknowledged the assistance of the US government to Bicol, calling it "Philippine-American Friendship Day in action."

Meanwhile, the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Bicol said only 30 percent of housing and relocation needs in calamity-hit areas have been met so far.

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To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS. Tomorrow, July 06, 2007 is the FIRST FRIDAY of the month. NOVENAS and STATUES to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS and to ST. ANTHONY are given away FREE for Chapels, Hospitals, Schools, etc. Please get them from Jasmine at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City or from Jay-R at 170 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City.

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• EFFECTIVE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION		
July 16 - 27, 2007	M-W-F	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
• DYNAMICS OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT		
July 17 - 26, 2007	T-TH	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
• CREATIVE SALESMANSHIP AND CLIENT RELATIONS		
July 17 - 26, 2007	T-TH	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
• MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVES		
July 17 - 26, 2007	T-TH	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
• ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS		
July 21 - August 18, 2007	Saturday	9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
• PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDIES		
July 14 - August 4, 2007	Saturday	9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
• PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING		
July 14 - August 4, 2007	Saturday	9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
• ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING FOR MGRS. & SUPERVISORS		
July 14, 2007	Saturday	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
• PROTECTING YOUR COMPANY ASSETS		
July 14, 2007	Saturday	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
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• MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL CONTROL		
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• EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM		
July 27, 2007	Friday	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
• MOTIVATION: KEY TO WINNING		
July 23, 2007	Monday	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
• GRIEVANCE HANDLING		
July 24, 2007	Tuesday	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY
ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICES
RP No.: 07/7908

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development financial institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification to bid for the provision of alteration and improvement services at ADB Headquarters Building, located at No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
2. The Contractor shall provide all the necessary architectural and engineering design concept, supervision, skilled personnel, tools, equipment, transportation and consumable materials to implement comprehensive alteration and improvement works. The Service includes among others, design (architecture, civil, structure, electrical, mechanical, instrumentation, and working drawings), construction of partitions, realignment of related building services, project studies, cost estimates, evaluation / installation of new equipment and other similar works that will improve the performance and function of building facilities. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants. It also includes the provision for, on an as need basis, the personnel listed in the Work Performance Statement.
3. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Procurement and Contracting Unit, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address from **9 to 20 July 2007** on any working day (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (P300.00) at ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
4. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for prequalification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the Attention of the Head, Procurement and Contracting Unit, Room 1630 South, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, not later than **4:00 P.M., 3 August 2007**, and be clearly marked **"Application to Pre-qualify for Alteration and Improvement Services."**
5. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB. Bid documents will be issued to prequalified bidders from **26 September to 9 October 2007**.
6. This Invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification.

(Sgd.) AMARJIT S. WASAN
Principal Director
Office of Administrative Services

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(PDI–July 5 & 6, 2007)

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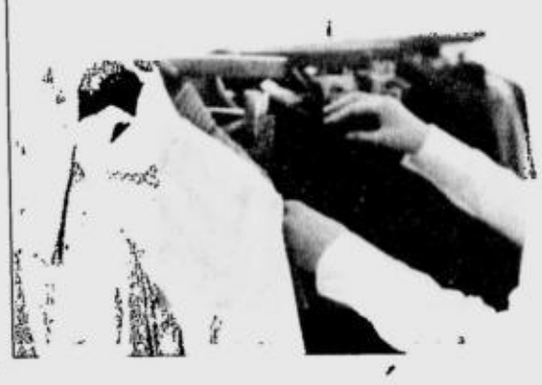

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OPINION

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Arrivederci

THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS SENDING A top envoy to the Philippines "to work," in the words of the Italian foreign ministry, "for a positive conclusion" to the kidnapping of Italian missionary Fr. Giancarlo Bossi is not entirely unexpected. We must say, however, that the news that lawmaker Margherita Boniver has been dispatched to the Philippines struck us as potentially worrisome.

EDITORIAL

We do not mean, of course, that the Italian senator and former member of the European Parliament—described in a wire news report as a veteran of many humanitarian missions—is unwelcome here. On the contrary, we look forward to her visit.

All the same, we recognize her forthcoming visit as fraught with ominous significance.

The Italian government is obviously displeased with the pace of the search effort; Bossi was kidnapped in Payao town in Zamboanga Sibugay on June 10, almost a month ago. He has not been sighted since.

Despite its promises, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has failed to locate him; worse, the military seems to compensate for its current failure to find Bossi with a public relations blitz.

The regional superior of Bossi's order, the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions or PIME, all but rebuked the Armed Forces for its—to him—baseless pronouncements. "Let us be cautious in issuing statements. For as long as there is no proof of life, no concrete positive developments, let us keep the information to ourselves," said Fr. Gianni Battista Sandalo.

Sandalo noted, pointedly, that not a single PIME missionary had heard from Bossi or his kidnappers or, for that matter, "not even [from] a military official like General Esperon."

Boniver's visit, therefore, could be an expression of dissatisfaction with the official Philippine response to the kidnapping.

Our country's sorry history of kidnappings and abductions reveals the bitter, uncoated pill of experience: The payment of ransom does not stop kidnappers in their tracks; it only emboldens them. Italy may have a different experience; it is entirely possible that Boniver is travelling to the Philippines precisely to make ransom arrangements possible.

We hope not. But Bossi's captors may misunderstand Boniver's "positive conclusion" brief as license to negotiate the terms of payment. That would mean only one thing: Even if the ransom frees Bossi, it would put other missionaries, other foreigners living in certain parts of the country, at even greater risk.

If, indeed, the Italian government is prepared to deal with Bossi's kidnappers, then this would directly run counter to our official policy; we are afraid that the presence of a high official from a friendly country would force our government to look the other way.

To be sure, a Philippine government official has already defined Boniver's limits. "We have rules, and I don't think she will be allowed to negotiate if what you mean is she will be at the forefront trying to contact the [kidnappers]," said Deputy National Security Adviser Pedro Cabuay.

A third reason for our apprehension is political. Referring to the long-drawn-out effort to locate Bossi, and the seeming inability of the AFP to find him, another PIME missionary addressed himself to an important issue without mincing words. "We feel that this is part of a drama to justify the antiterror bill or to divert public attention from other issues. I also doubt the sincerity of the implementers of the antiterror bill," Fr. Peter Geremia told the INQUIRER.

Despite the announcement the other day that the Human Security Act of 2007 won't take effect just yet because of the lack of implementing rules and regulations, this missionary's statement linking the controversial antiterror law with the continuing failure to resolve Bossi's kidnapping—"part of a drama," "divert public attention"—is a stinging reminder of the Arroyo administration's credibility deficit.

Thus, this possibility: It may be that, through Boniver's visit, the Italian government is responding to concerns raised by organizations in the Philippines with access to Italian public opinion, concerns about whether the Arroyo administration can in fact be trusted. Her assignment, then, would be to make sure the Philippine government kept its word. Of all the possible meanings of Boniver's trip east, that would be the most upsetting.

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One-eyed kings

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

MINT-NEW SEN. ANTONIO TRILLANES IV emerged, as the INQUIRER reported, "with guns blazing." He promptly shot himself in the foot by vowing he'd jump-start impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo. Even a military academy plebe knows that under the Constitution, which Magdalo mutineers tried to gut, only the House of Representatives can start impeachment.

Former Rep. Prospero Pichay swore that Commission on Appointments colleagues were not extortionists. You believe him? Or do people give credence to former Rep. Herminio Teves who asserted that some CA members tried to wring P5 million for confirming Margarito Teves as finance secretary?

"It's not immoral" if CA members wheedle projects from people whose appointments they pass on, Pichay fumed. No? This is gross lack of *delicadeza*.

Link that to the notorious Section 20 of CA Rules which vests a CA member with the veto that can hogtie 23 other members. "This one-person veto empowers a CA member to extort bribes, government appointments, or public works contracts, in exchange for confirmation," Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago explained from bitter experience

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña spoke of "dangerous distractions" in his inaugural address. This life-threatening menace, it turns out, is his brawl with Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia. City sores, from 173 unsolved vigilante murders, emerging water shortages and a million-peso daily bill for foreign loan interest, got short shrift. His vision stretched only that far.

Bankruptcy of vision links the three disparate examples above. Progress, however, is possible only when leaders craft policies that spur citizens to "bind present action to a clear perspective of the future," says Jaime Lerner, who made Brazil's city of Curitiba a world symbol of breakthroughs. Officials must have a vision of the ideal but do today what is possible.

Vision opens paths. "If you think his daddy had trouble with this 'vision thing,' wait until you see this one," journalists Molly Ivins and Lou Dubose wrote when George W. Bush began his first presidential campaign. "Where there is no vision, the people perish," the Book of Proverbs says.

Blindness underpins what World Bank's Joachim von Amsberg aptly called the "Philippine paradox." Here is a country graced with dynamic, talented people. And despite shrunken natural resources, it still has stunning potential. Wedged within the world's fastest-growing region, the Philippines has an outward-oriented economy, the outgoing country WB director told Manila foreign correspondents. Yet, it constantly underperforms. "Why has the Philippines not achieved faster growth and more significant poverty reduction over the last 30 years?"

Von Amsberg pointed out that flawed governance and malfunctioning public institutions served "special interests," not the common good. (The late Filipino historian Horacio de la Costa, S.J., called this "hostaging of the bureaucracy.") Thus, government fails to collect taxes and misallocates puny resources. People are deprived of public services and the country is stripped of a reliable investment climate that would encourage rapid growth—to break out of the penury treadmill.

No international official will finger the likes of Trillanes, Pichay and Osmeña and their clones for this mess. But hey, we can connect the dots. This is a country of skewed wealth—and power.

Our most affluent 10 percent, who live within gated enclaves, burn 37 centavos out of every peso, the Philippine Human Development Report noted. In their shacks, the poorest make do with three centavos. When a crisis hits, like illness in the family, the poor pare that down to two centavos. The rich rearrange their menus in their mansions—and renew their exit visas.

"There are only two families in the world, my grandmother often said," recalled Miguel de Cervantes, "the haves and the have nots." In this polarized world, cash makes for right. "Here, net worth equals self worth," a banker explains. Bank balances and car models set the pecking order at dinner tables.

Under "pecuniary decency," poverty becomes the original sin. Transporting gold to the grave becomes the end-all and-be-all. Official position conserves perks. That explains all those family dynasties: Macapagals, Marcoses, Cayetanos, Binays, Villars, Dutertes, etc.

These "inequality traps," Von Amsberg warns, can reverse successes in five crucial areas: (a) fiscal reforms where public debt has shrunk and cash for development increased; (b) private delivery of public services, demonstrated by Manila's improved water systems; (c) judiciary reforms; (d) greater procurement transparency; and (d) innovative local governments, as in Marikina and Naga City. Worse, they could derail "three vital transitions" needed if the country is to join, finally, the "East Asian Renaissance": unprecedented growth in East Asia that literally lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in two decades. The three transitions are toward: (a) economic stability; (b) improving investment climate which, at 15 percent of GDP, lags behind the 20-30 percent achieved by neighboring countries; and (c) social inclusion to close the gap between the few who're very rich and the masses who're dirt poor.

"In a country of the blind, the one-eyed is king," Erasmus once said. And failure to act from myopia would see the Philippines fail, once again, "to grasp its opportunity to rise from the image of a laggard in East Asia."

* * *

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Honor among thieves

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BENJAMIN ABALOS' EXPLANATION IS THAT he wasn't feeling well and knew that his favorite hot soup was just the thing to revive him. That hot soup was to be found in Shangri-La Makati. So he hied off there.

But lo and behold, there was the Zubiri couple, Migz Zubiri's parents, gathered at one table, having a celebration of sorts. Abalos would learn that it was their anniversary and would feel obliged to go over and greet them. He spent "only 10 seconds" to congratulate them and exchange pleasantries. He understood that the scene would look bad to anyone who saw it and so was in a hurry to get away. Such was his rush he didn't even get to taste his soup.

The Pimentels' demand that he inhibit himself from the counting because of it, he says, is ridiculous.

Well, first off, what obviously does not strike him as odd in his explanation is that he should be having soup in of all places one of the most expensive hotels in this country. He does not identify the particular soup in this soup opera, nor does he point out the properties that commend it as an effective cure to unwell-ness—maybe it's the "hot" rather than the "soup" that does the trick—but why a public servant whose take-home pay on paper is less than mine can afford to have soup in places like this, only he can say. I myself on the occasions that I do not feel well just sleep it off. And I myself on the occasions that I crave soup have it at Hap Chan. The soup, with accompanying noodles and beef and wanton, costs less than P100. I do not take it on the occasions that I am unwell—*sayang* the *mami* and *sayang* my money.

As it was, *sayang* the soup Abalos never got to slurp. If it's his allowance that allows him to do these things, well, that is taxpayers' money, and even allowing for human frailty, taxpayers' money is not meant to be used for soup in five-star hotels and premium gas in Mercedes-Benzes. You've got to be used to this fairly luxurious lifestyle—or imagine the public is used to congressmen and Comelec officials being so—to find the explanation of seeking soup in Shangri-La (that almost sounds like finding lotus in Nirvana) the most perfectly natural thing in the world.

Second off, what are the odds that on the very hour Abalos was feeling unwell and needed the revitalizing effects of soup in Shangri-La, the Zubiris, whose son Migz is locked in a life-and-death battle for 12th spot in the Senate with Koko Pimentel, a battle whose victor Abalos is in a position to decree, should be feeling very well and needed the vivifying effects of a celebration at the exact same place? Why did Abalos not find Nene Pimentel who was feeling deeply troubled by the way Fate or the Devil was harassing him (he was a victim of *dagdag-bawas* once and now his son stands to become one too; lightning strikes twice from the hand of Zeus, or the Comelec) also there requiring the uplifting effects of coffee? Maybe because Nene is *kuripot* and makes his own coffee? Well, as a mayor I know who was called "*kuripot*" in graffiti on walls by his enemies retorted, also in graffiti on walls: "*Di bale kuripot, wag lang kurakot*." In this country, *kuripot* has become the local word for honest.

Migz Zubiri himself insists the meeting was purely an accident and the ensuing banter purely social. Abalos might be forgiven for feeling compelled to go over and greet his parents because he is a close family friend.

Well, as accidents go, the only accident with comparable odds that I know is Alfredo Lim, when he was mayor of Manila in the 1990s, pulling out a lottery ticket from the *tambiolo* and reading—his name! If I recall right, people also said then that even if that were on the up and up, it behooved him to waive his claim to the (substantial) prize out of sheer *delicadeza*. He claimed the prize anyway. *Delicadeza*, or quite literally delicateness, is clearly not a property that inheres in someone who paints the dwellings of suspected drug pushers red and/or rolls their bodies out in drums onto the Pasig River.

But Zubiri the Younger supplies the very reason why Abalos should inhibit himself from the counting of votes of Maguindanao, whose sole, exclusive and entire significance (there is no other) is to determine whether he or Koko Pimentel should go to the Senate: he is a close family friend. Even without that meeting, whether accidentally deliberate or deliberately accidental, whether social or criminal, Abalos cannot be trusted to count those votes right. Indeed, Zubiri the Younger hammers the last nail on the coffin, supplying the ultimate argument for why the Maguindanao votes, whose credibility strained even Abalos' capacity to believe, should never have been counted in the first place: Abalos is a close family friend.

In Japan and Korea, embarrassment is a cause for disemboweling oneself. Here it is cause for dropping more bowels. That is why their officials achieve life even after death and our officials achieve death even during life. Abalos' nonchalance and Migz Zubiri's attempts to trivialize his apparently fortuitous meeting with his parents in fact show the depths to which the concept of civil service in this country has sunk.

Delicadeza might not have been as rife in the past as nostalgia makes it out to be, but it was at least an ideal that shone its light upon the land like the sun and melted the dark. Then, it was up to public officials to prove that they lived up to the highest standards of ethical conduct, however the proof they gave was tenuous, or they faced demands to resign. Today, it is up to the public itself to prove their officials are crooks, and however the proof the public offers is ironclad, the officials are not going to resign anyway.

There's only one honor they know. See title above.

Lim opens Mendiola, but forgets 'Mendiola Massacre'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PIMENTELS, *PERE ET FILS*, SEEM TO BE very affected by the cliff-hanger senatorial race. They have accused the parents of Team Unity senatorial candidate Juan Miguel Zubiri, Bukidnon Gov. Joe Zubiri and Victoria Fernandez-Zubiri, of having brazenly rendezvoused with Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos at the Makati Shangri-La a few days ago. Migz fiercely denied this and insisted that his parents were celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary when they accidentally ran into Abalos who was attending the wedding anniversary of Health Secretary Francisco Duque. Abalos has explained himself along the same line, but the Pimentels are unconvinced he and the Zubiris were not trying to cook up a plot against Koko.

* * *

The Pimentels should not take the public for a fool. Would the Zubiris really meet with Abalos in a hotel that's like a public market while their son is locked in the tightest race ever for the 12th slot? And why does it have to be the Zubiris themselves when there could be intermediaries? What might be affecting the Pimentels is the fact that with all the Maguindanao votes canvassed, Zubiri already leads by 1,323 votes. By today, canvassing should be finished in the towns of Bogo, Cebu and Bais, Negros Oriental, and Zubiri's lead is expected to widen to 17,687 votes. The special election in Pantar, Lanao del Norte, and the results in one precinct in Tandubas, Tawi-Tawi, will only involve about 9,270 votes. Zubiri's proclamation is expected today, but as they say, it ain't over until the fat lady sings. Besides, Koko will have all the recount he wants in the Senate Electoral Tribunal.

* * *

I wish new Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim had carefully studied his decision to open Mendiola Bridge, a.k.a. Chino Roces Bridge, to all who wish to cross it, before he made it. The decision is obviously directed toward encouraging ralliers and militants who had previously been barred from crossing the bridge by former Mayor Lito Atienza. Lim is grandstanding and playing to the Left while risking the security of Malacañang and the schools in the Mendiola area. But he should be the last person to forget the lesson of Jan. 22, 1987, now known as the infamous "Mendiola Massacre" during the first year of the Aquino administration. On that day, police forces under the command of Lim, who was then police chief of Manila, shot and killed 22 farmers who had marched there to protest the agrarian policies of the government. It shocked the whole world. That episode should remind Lim that crowds could get out of control in a split second and then hell breaks lose. He should revisit his decision.

* * *

Cecile Alvarez and I interviewed Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo L. Neri on our recent Sunday evening dzRH program about the spectacular 6.9 percent growth in gross domestic product during the first quarter of 2007. Neri gave a balanced and careful assessment of the economic picture, and even then he already stressed what Finance Secretary Margarito Teves now points out: the need for more investments and improvement in our revenues collection, principally by broadening our tax base, which is the smallest in the region.

Neri, who worked with six speakers as director-general of the Congressional Planning and Budget Department of the House prior to his Cabinet appointment, was the architect of the "747 Program" that the House, under Speaker Jose de Venecia, has adopted. Its thesis is that in order to conquer poverty, we have to achieve a 7 percent growth in the next seven years. Neri stressed that while the 6.9 percent GDP growth, which was driven primarily by the services sector, e.g., transportation, trade, real estate and tourism, was the highest since the 9.1 percent growth in 1982, we have to sustain it. And this is where the tough fight lies.

* * *

Neri differentiated between the "unemployed" and the "underemployed," meaning those working less than 200 days a year. At the moment, he said, about 7.8 percent of the population are unemployed and 23 percent are underemployed, but in the poorest agricultural sector, the coconut workers, employment is only 50 days a year. Neri pointed out that our economy is doing better than those of our neighbors, but the level of our investments is lower than most, and is in fact, going down. He said more investments would create more jobs but to attract investments, we need to exhibit fair regulation of the policy environment to make it "predictable," and invest in more "hard and soft infrastructure."

Neri especially stressed how beneficial investments in the tourism field are, pointing out that one tourist is equivalent to one job for a Filipino. But in this field we have only begun to scratch the surface: while there are some 140 million Chinese tourists a year, RP only gets about 130,000 of them. Neri said tourism would get an incredible boost from opening up our skies to foreign carriers, and our trade would benefit from breaking up the monopoly of sea operations held by some firms since the Aquino era.

* * *

Perhaps the most interesting part of our interview with Neri was his indictment of our institutions. He noted that it has been said so often that we have a "damaged culture," and yet, we work well abroad. I countered that we don't even have to look abroad: our people work very well with the multinational firms in the economic zones here. Neri lamented that the Filipino people are "very modern," but their institutions are "very primitive" (we don't have to look far again, just consider the Comelec). Ensuring political stability and "modernizing state institutions," he said, could be part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's "legacy programs and projects." He ended by quoting from Napoleon: "Men are powerless to secure the future. Institutions alone fix the destinies of nations." *(Next, Teves' views)*

57 blood-red years

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

SHOW-BIZ CELEBRITY BRATS LIKE PARIS HILTON and other wannabes out there have a lot to learn from this great woman.

Long before she became a movie icon and had her name on the firmament of genuine stars, Rosa Rosal (Florence Danon) had already begun to have a life outside of the glitzy world of show biz.

"I was in this world but not of this world," she likes to say. It's a biblical phrase she often quotes to stress that the movie persona she was known for was not what she was in real life. Of course, people know that by now.

This year, Rosa Rosal marks 57 years of service to the Philippine National Red Cross' (PNRC) Blood Program. It's been close to six blood-red decades since she started to lend her time, talent and treasure to an endeavor few celebrities like her have embraced. Indeed, blood is thicker than the sweat and tears she had shed to get the work done.

At 16 going on 17, Rosal found herself in the world of movies. Her Eurasian looks landed her strong character roles, vixen roles among them, when she was younger. That was also about the time that she got drawn to charity work and to the work of the Red Cross.

It all started with a little boy who lay sick and unconscious in the Philippine General Hospital. Rosal chanced upon him and his distraught mother during one of her hospital visits. She did all she could to help, and looked for blood and medicines for him. Her efforts paid off. "When he opened his eyes," Rosal remembers with tears, "his first word was 'Nanay.'"

That scene, that experience, was the goading factor that set her off on a road less-traveled. There were times when she wondered whether what she was doing had an impact. She was often told, "That's enough, you're working alone."

Rosal recalls feeling low one day while watching water from a faucet coming out drop by drop. Slowly but surely the glass became full. Rosal likens her efforts to the water that slowly fills then floods the lives of those who thirst and hunger.

In her later years in the movies, Mater Dolorosa roles (and *contrabida* ones, too, why not) became frequent for Rosal, maybe because of the real-life role she had played for many decades and continues to play to this day.

Being mother to her own family (TV host Toni Rose Gayda is her only daughter) and thousands of sick and indigent Filipinos who flocked to seek her help through her TV program ("Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko" and then "Damayan"), she became known as the refuge of the desperate many. She didn't have to shuck her movie-star way of grooming in order to wade into the world of the so-called Great Unwashed. People knew that behind the tear-stained makeup (tears come easily) is a woman of sense and purpose.

She's had her share of pain. Her marriage lasted a mere five days and she has never seen him since. "After that," she quips, "I realized I do not need a man in my life." Indeed, Rosal has never had another man in her life, that is, as husband, partner, husband or lover. She is married to her cause, the Blood Program, that is, and to charity work. (She was conferred the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Service several years ago.)

Yesterday, on the occasion of PNRC governor Rosal's "57 years of service to humanity", PNRC launched the National Blood Center's Apheresis Center at its headquarters on Bonifacio Drive. Rosal and PNRC secretary general Corazon Alma de Leon gave me a tour of the blood center a couple of months ago and I was indeed impressed and happy to know that something like this is accessible to those who need blood that is safe and free.

What is apheresis? The word comes from the Greek word that means "to take away." Donating blood used to mean giving away the whole bloody thing in bags. Now, through the apheresis way, donors give only the select blood components—platelets, plasma, red cells and the infection-fighting white cells called granulocytes. Or one can give a combination of these depending on the donor's blood type and the need of the moment. Apheresis is commonly done to collect just platelets and plasma.

The great thing about this is that a single apheresis donation can provide as many platelets as five whole blood donations. Aside from this, a platelet transfusion from a single donor greatly reduces the risk of an immune system reaction to the transfusion on the part of the recipient. Therefore cancer and leukemia patients whose immune systems are greatly compromised benefit much from single-donor platelet transfusion.

The Red Cross makes sure that donations go through additional typing called human leukocyte antigen (HLA) typing to ensure that the donor and recipient are closely matched. Apheresis donors may be on call to give emergency donations to those who have been matched with them.

And here's something for those inclined to be perennial givers. People who donate just platelets can donate every three days for a maximum of 24 times a year. If you want to donate you must at least be 17 years old, at least 110 pounds and in good health.

Here in the Philippines where dengue cases are plenty during the rainy season, the apheresis center would indeed be a great source of the blood components needed by hemorrhaging patients.

Compared with other countries, the PNRC's Blood Center is just as good, Rosal says. There are 65 blood centers all over the country, she adds.

It's been five, six decades since the great Rosa Rosal black-and-white must-see "Anak Dalita," "Badjao" and "Biyaya ng Lupa" were filmed. And the great blood lady continues to embrace the *mga anak dalita* of this country.

Fifty-seven blood-red roses for you, Tita Rose.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Wrong kind of addition

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

TO BE SENATE PRESIDENT, A SENATOR NEEDS 13 votes. Edgardo Angara, Joker Arroyo, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Pia Cayetano, Manuel Lapid, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Richard Gordon, all of whom compose the administration contingent in the Senate, lack the number to elect one of their own to head the chamber.

Manuel Villar Jr., Jose Estrada, Alan Peter Cayetano, Francis Escudero, Panfilo Lacson, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Ma. Ana Consuelo Madrigal, Manuel Roxas II, Rodolfo Biazon, Benigno Aquino III, Loren Legarda and Antonio Trillanes IV have nearly enough to elect a Senate president.

Two more senators, Gregorio Honasan and Francis Pangilinan, were elected as independents, and are, therefore, free agents. Were only one of them to vote with the opposition bloc, it could handily—and single-handedly—choose the next Senate president.

If Aquilino Pimentel III finally makes it to the Senate, the opposition would automatically have a bloc of 13 senators; if Miguel Zubiri makes it, the administration bloc would count 9 senators. However, if neither ends up proclaimed by the time the new Congress convenes, the clincher would still be the two new senators elected as independents.

At the time most of the newly elected senators were proclaimed, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said the opposition contingent in the Senate was actually as many as 15. His count went like this: 8 GO senators (including Pimentel the Younger) plus incumbents Roxas, Madrigal, Pimentel the Elder, Estrada, Pangilinan and Cayetano the Sister. Based on that calculation, the opposition block could easily elect a Senate president and freeze out the administration when it comes to the major committees.

But as an American coach liked to say, "If ifs and buts were candy and nuts, we'd all have a merry Christmas." And it ain't gonna be Christmas in July for the opposition bloc. The opposition has put forward two candidates to head the chamber: Villar and Pimentel the Elder. Both are qualified. And yet it seems that both lack the number required to become the next Senate president. That is, if one only talks of opposition bloc votes.

So the temptation is there for someone aspiring to the Senate presidency to "reach out" to the administration bloc, to get the votes required to put him over the top. As the minority, the administration bloc can circle its wagons, and promise to vote as a bloc—a cool eight votes (with a bonus of one additional vote, because no one expects Honasan to think, much less vote, independently of Enrile), requiring a candidate for the Senate presidency to find only four more votes to get the job.

To be sure, lots of excuses could be found to smash the opposition bloc, before it has a chance to solidify, but there is one reason none of these reasons should fly and why the opposition bloc (with or without Cayetano the Sister) should salvage a deteriorating situation, and settle the question of the Senate presidency among themselves. That reason is: the mandate conferred on the newly elected senators in this election.

Only two—or at most, three—of the administration Senate slate survived the May election. Opposition and independent candidates won on the basis of keeping the Palace at arm's length, or on the public's expectation that they would keep the President and her people under tight scrutiny for the remainder of her term. A vote of confidence in the Senate as a chamber that represents check and balance was cast; a line in the sand was drawn by both sides, and the public overwhelmingly supported those who stood for election in defiance of the administration.

The bloc that gets to elect the next Senate president is the bloc that becomes the new majority, and which therefore ends up chairing the committees that matter—and which can make life miserable for executive officials (and that includes the Chief Executive) who may still have mischief in their minds. The bloc that loses gets to be the new minority, which will have automatic representation in all committees but which won't get to set the agendas.

A Senate president who gets elected with the help of the administration bloc will have to farm out committee chairmanships to opposition and administration senators purely on the basis of how important their votes were in getting him elected.

Think of it this way: Senator Santiago badly wants to be chair of the foreign relations committee. If the administration bloc takes part in the successful selection of the next Senate president, then part of the division of chairmanships that results will include Santiago getting the committee she wants. The very same Senator Santiago who has been accompanying the President in her foreign travels! This will send the signal to the world that the Senate endorses the very thing for which President Arroyo has been taken to task during her travels abroad: her dismal human rights record.

In May, the public chose between the administration and the opposition. In July, the senators will have to decide whether they will break faith with the electorate, or stand by the mandate they were given. The oppositionist of today, were he or she to join forces with the administration bloc to choose the next Senate president, would be a member of the new majority of tomorrow, but would no longer be an oppositionist.

Eye on the prize! Elect a leader purely on the basis of your own number, and without compromising with the administration. Don't squander your historic duty to mount a sturdy defense of the chamber and democracy, as demanded by the people.

The greatest pain

YOUNG BLOOD

Sachiko S. Estreller

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

"ONCE ONE GETS THE PAIN AND BECOMES OUT OF breath /One will realize the greatest pain is DEATH."

These are the last two lines of the very first poem I have written, but to be frank about it, I don't believe even one word of it.

I wrote this particular poem when I was in Grade 5. That was the point in my life when I really was afraid of dying and even the mere thought of death made my eyes teary. I asked people what they thought being dead was like, and the answer that really struck me was my father's. When I asked him the question, he answered in a serious voice: "Well, I think death would be simple: You're sleeping, but then you never wake up again."

His answer wasn't much of a help. It made me cry even harder.

I don't really know if this was natural behavior, but I was absolutely terrified of death then. I cried over the death of my mother, my father, my siblings, my dog—even before it actually happened. Absurd? But hey, I was in 5th grade.

Surprisingly, when I entered high school, my views about death totally changed. This was the point in my life when I didn't fear death at all. I could go on talking about death all day without flinching even once. I started reading articles and pocket books containing loss of life and murder. I watched bloody movies. And I even brainstormed about the best and worst ways to die!

Mind you, it didn't stop there. At that time, a powerful desire to make my thoughts and ideas come to reality was thriving inside of me. Wait! Don't be scared. I didn't want to kill people around me. Actually, I wanted to die.

Don't get me wrong. I led a very happy life back then (and until now). I had a great family, good friends, fair grades and achievements, a person whom I admire and who admires me back, necessary luxuries and, most importantly, good food.

Perhaps you might be wondering, "Well if her life's oh so happy, why think about dying at all?"

The truth was that I felt unimportant and unfulfilled. You see, I had this issue about being a real nagger and pessimist. I could go on complaining for days about how my life was incomplete and how much I wanted this and that. I always found things that I wanted even though I had them already in my pockets. I supposed that if I had everything I needed back then, I still would have looked and asked for more.

I supposed that if I died, everyone I knew would come to realize what a great loss I was. I often daydreamed that I was already dead and my soul was watching over my own funeral and people were crying over my dead body, their faces showing similar expressions—of regret, sadness, hurt and affection.

If I were a normal person then, this scenario would have brought me sorrow. But in fact I seemed to draw immense satisfaction from it. I believed that death would bring me attention and appreciation and make me feel important.

One night as I was pondering over my usual morbid scenarios about death, a sudden thought struck me: After I died, after I got all the attention, appreciation and sense of importance I craved, what would become of me? I couldn't expect other people to keep their attention and appreciation of me after the shock of my death had sunk in. I couldn't expect them to cry over my death forever. They would eventually get on with their lives and put their memories of me in a small space at the back of their minds. So where would that take me?

That question transformed my views on death and it made me if not a completely normal person, at least somebody close to it.

Now I know that death is not the greatest way to gain attention and all that. For the attention and importance that death would bring me is but temporal, and would lead nowhere.

Now I don't believe that the greatest pain is dying itself because I have come to realize that the greatest pain is leaving all our families, belongings and memories behind as we close our eyes for the very last time, never to be opened again. I still believe in my dad. At the end of the day, death will not bring us the appreciation and happiness that we want. It is living our lives to the fullest that will.

Sachiko S. Estreller, 14, is a senior at the University of Baguio Science High School.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Questionable success

"I could fail this time, but that would be OK, instead of last year's experience where you passed and yet everyone felt passing was not done in good faith."

—Cyndi Erfe, a complainant against the Professional Regulation Commission examiners involved in the nursing board exam cheating

Abuse of privilege

"There's something wrong here. They exercise the executive privilege only for those who are giving benefits to the administration."

—Rodolfo Diamante, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care, on the commutation of child-rapist Romeo Jalosjos' sentence from two life terms to 16 years of imprisonment

Choices

"It's nice to have many choices in life but sometimes the lack of options makes us better. Only then is the self pushed to its limits. Everything becomes a matter of life and death."

—Ryan Rubillar, who along with his team, placed third in the recent Adfest Young Lotus Competition in Thailand

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'Wasted words, wasted efforts'

THE ABOVE PHILOSOPHICAL clause was inculcated in my mind when I was in short pants, growing up in Ilocos Sur. It was, to me, an original from my mother. A quarter of a century later, in the mid-'70s, as a graduate of the Asian Institute of Management, a new word was added to my vocabulary: "Paradigm" was a buzz word in the academe.

Later, while I was country head of the biggest specialty glass manufacturer in the world with corporate headquarters in upstate New York, another phrase came forth: "Walk the talk" did not only become a buzz phrase or slogan, it became a challenge to many, from the first line supervisor to the chief executive officer in the corporate jungle. "Corporate vision and mission" became very popular. Many executives used these new phrases very often in stressing their commitment. Many companies that embraced the challenge posed by "Walk the talk" fared well and succeeded despite the economic difficulties at that time.

It is sad to note, however, that it is not the case in government. Many of our officials in all branches of our government put emphasis on the last word: talk, talk and more talk—all rhetoric and empty promises. Sadly too, many of us, though not in government, are also guilty of this practice.

I was recently invited, as an observer, to a meeting of the national officers of a well-known group. At the meeting, the seconds turned into minutes, the minutes turned into hours until one of the officers said, "Enough of this talk. Let us set our objectives and proceed accordingly."

To the credit of the group, the emphasis was not lost in the maze. The focus was moral ascendancy in governance.

As the newly elected senators, congressmen and local officials assume their offices, it may be noted that a number of them were elected because of their stand against graft and corruption, patronage politics, political dynasties, gambling and a host of other vices and malpractices detrimental to the economic health and welfare of our country and our people. They are clamoring for moral regeneration in our predominantly Catholic country.

Will these new breed of politicians walk their talk or will they succumb, like the others before them, to the evils and temptations of perks that come with their lofty positions? Will they adhere to the oath that they solemnly swore or will they, like the others before them, merely pay lip service?

Will the electorate, who put their trust and confidence in them, be again relegated to the dustbin of history, to be remembered again only in the next elections?

Countrymen, I appeal to your sense of patriotism. We are all together in this crusade for a better and more humane world. Let us remain vigilant and courageous and see to it that not just our new breed of politicians but also all other officials in government will "walk their talk."

—JERRY A. QUIBILAN,
Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals,
Quezon City Chapter

Proposal vs vote-buying just a waste of paper and ink

THIS REFERS TO ROMULO D. San Juan's proposal to end vote-buying. (INQUIRER, 6/22/07) I think the proposal would make the electoral system more chaotic. It opens to many disadvantages.

One is that, our present voting system—even though we only have to write the name of one candidate of our choice for every key position—is already chaotic; how much more if we are going to write several names for every position and there are several positions we have to fill out on every ballot? Needless to say, it would be harder to tally the votes.

Another thing, the more candidates there are, the more they will be tempted to engage in illegal acts, such as vote-buying.

For every position, only one candidate will be proclaimed winner. So what's the use of writing so many names on our ballot? It would just be a waste of paper and ink. It would not level the playing field for the candidates; it would only encourage rich candidates to engage in electoral fraud.

Why not educate the voters instead, especially those living in rural and remote areas? As I observed in the last May 14 elections, there are still many Filipinos who do not know how to select the right candidates. They are still stuck in the traditional way of selecting candidates: whoever gives money will be the one they're going to vote for. In short, mostly, it is still "vote-buying" that determines most voters' decisions.

There should be forums in every part of our country to discuss election malpractices and how to stop them. The forums should be held a year prior to the election—to avoid chaos. This would not be a difficult project to undertake, that is, if we Filipinos are really sincere.

What our country needs is the strict implementation of laws so that "dirty" candidates would be afraid to make even just one illegal act. All citizens must be aware and sensitive to what's happening in their communities. We should not be blinded by the sweet promises of candidates.

—ANALEN B. SANCHEZ,
Anonas Street,
Sta. Mesa, Manila

LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Where now is the opposition?

THIS IS A REACTION TO CONRADO de Quiros' column titled "No, you don't." (INQUIRER, 7/2/07)

The usurpation of power by our government is not only tolerated, it has in fact been the norm. Transparency and genuine respect for human rights are basic tenets in a democracy. However, in a very callous display of autocracy, the Commission on Elections has unilaterally chosen to allow a repeat of the scandalous 2004 elections. In doing this, the Comelec is in contempt of the will of the people. And this is arrogance in its highest form.

The people have clearly spoken and their collective statement is a clear rejection of the old ways of running our government. Through the ballot, the people are demanding changes. Their vote is their voice. Democracy exists, the real vacuum is the absence of a leader in the opposition ranks. This government continues to do what it does because of a lack of an effective opposition. The newly elected opposition senators earned a mandate to effect changes. The results of the senatorial election are proof that the people were not only watching, they were also wisely taking down notes. Right now, I will go as far as saying they are waiting for that opposition figure to emerge.

Standing up against the Comelec presents an opportunity to score big especially for those who aspire for leadership in the Senate. Question is, where has the opposition gone? Why is it putting up with this display of arrogance by the Comelec? Are we going to allow the soul of Musa Dimasidsing to say that the Filipino vote is not worth dying for?

—MIGUEL BUENCAMINO,
mys3guy2004@yahoo.com

Pag-Ibig cites bars to condonations

THIS IS IN REPLY TO THE LETTER "GMA reminded of Labor Day vow," written by Eduardo A. Duarte of Victorias City, Negros Occidental. (INQUIRER, 6/27/07) Duarte called attention to the lack of action on the appeal of 229 housing loan borrowers for a condonation of the interest on their loans. The Pag-Ibig Fund was mentioned as one of the lenders.

We would like to inform Duarte, as well as other Pag-Ibig housing loan borrowers, that the Fund has a continuing loan restructuring program, known as the "Gabay Pabahay." This aims to assist borrowers who are behind their loan payments so that their property will not be foreclosed or their Contracts to Sell cancelled. The program is open only to Fund members whose accounts were taken out by Pag-Ibig. The following delinquent borrowers do not qualify for the program:

1. Those who have abandoned the housing units.

2. Those with cancelled Contract to Sell accounts under the Maceda Law (RA 6552).

3. Those whose accounts, covered by buy-back and back-up guarantee, had become delinquent during the seasoning or buy-back period.

We also wish to stress that the Fund does have an ongoing condonation program. However, this applies only to penalties incurred by delinquent accounts. It is against the law to condone the interest on housing loans.

Our records show that Duarte is not among our Pag-Ibig housing loan borrowers. However, for the others in his group whose loans were taken out by the Fund, we invite them to visit our Bacolod Branch Office at the St. Francis Center along Araneta Street, Singcang, Bacolod City, so our provincial personnel can evaluate their accounts and recommend appropriate courses of action. They may also call the offices of the manager and assistant manager at Tel. No. (034)435-1129 local 100 and 103, respectively.

For our members' information, effective June 1, 2007, we are implementing the Good Payor Incentive Program, under which housing loan borrowers who are prompt in paying their monthly amortization would be given discounts of up to a maximum of 2 percent on the interest. Qualified to avail themselves of the program are member-borrowers whose accounts were taken out prior to Nov. 23, 2006, have interest rates higher than 6 percent and who pay their accounts on or before their due date. Likewise, borrowers whose accounts are in arrears for one to six months as of June 1, 2007 may avail themselves of the benefit, provided that they update their accounts up to Dec. 31 of this year.

The Fund has also amended its "Abot-Kaya Pabahay" program, further lowering the interest rates for certain loan brackets. Effective June 25 this year, loans over P300,000 up to P750,000 will be charged a 7-percent interest per annum. Meanwhile, loans exceeding P750,000 up to P2 million will be charged a 10.5 percent annual interest.

—MARGIE A. JORILLO,
vice president, Public Affairs and Information Office,
Home Development Mutual Fund,
(Pag-Ibig Fund)

Renaming 'historical' streets illegal

I COULD NOT AGREE MORE WITH the article of Augusto de Viana and the careless change of street names, without any consideration for the city's history. (INQUIRER, 6/24/07)

Now Calle Nueva has just been renamed.

If the National Historical Commission has not been advised or consulted, would that make the change of name illegal?

—W-A MIAILHE DE BURGH,
501 Burke Bldg.
cor. Burke and Escolta, Manila

TVI explains side on Canatuan mining row

WE LAUD DAXIM LUCAS FOR HIS OBJECTIVity on the issue of revitalizing mining. ("Mining is poised for takeoff, but old woes persist," INQUIRER, 6/11/07) Among the "woes" mentioned in his report were the human rights violations allegedly committed against indigenous peoples, Jose Anoy among them. Please allow us to present our side.

1. Anoy and other members of his tribe were never evicted from their ancestral domain. They were repudiated by their community and voted out of leadership of the Siocon Subanon Association Inc. (SSAI), which is recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples as the legal representative of the Canatuan Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) holders. Their leadership was rejected in part because of their reported alignment with what was believed by the community to be the evils of small-scale mining, which was operating illegally in Canatuan from the early 1990s until the early 2000s.

2. Mount Canatuan is not sacred. The only identifiable Subanons who seriously consider it sacred are members of anti-mining organizations who indirectly benefited from the above-cited small-scale mining in that mountain but who, after their leadership was rejected by the majority of their community, began using the mountain's "sacredness" as a rallying cry in international discourse.

3. TVI's presence in Canatuan has IP consent. As a gesture of good faith, TVI entered into a memorandum of understanding and, subsequently, a memorandum of agreement, with the SSAI for the development of Canatuan despite the fact that TVI secured its Mineral Production Sharing Agreement with the Philippine government prior to the issuance of the CADT to the Subanons.

4. Anoy is not a Timuay (tribal chief). Anoy's lineage and status as a Timuay were challenged by many in the community because he did not come from the local community and because of other reasons.

Over the last several years, TVI has refuted these and many other allegations against the company in considerable detail, and those materials are available on the TVI website (www.tviphilippines.com <http://www.tviphilippines.com>).

Visitors to the website can also see the expanding list of the company's successful efforts to help the Canatuan Subanons enjoy more of their human rights—including rights to development, health, education, employment, food, water and security, as well as sustainable development—in a better way.

TVI's Canatuan Project enjoys the strong support of the Subanons who have joined in the common effort to judiciously use resources as a means of attaining economic and social progress. We are proud of what we have been able to accomplish in Canatuan. We are inviting Lucas to our project site so that he will be able to see for himself and to talk to the real people who have benefited from these accomplishments.

—ROCKY DIMACULANGAN,
director, public affairs,
TVI Resources Development Philippines Inc.,
22/F Equitable PCI Bank Tower,
8751 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Words without actions are nothing

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE NEWS ITEM titled: "Migz: I can take defeat, but how about Koko?" (INQUIRER, 6/25/07)

It is easy for one to say that he can take defeat, but can he walk his talk?

Unfortunately, Migz Zubiri's utterances are not in sync with his actions. If Zubiri can really take defeat and is willing to let the true voice of the people reign, then he should join Koko Pimentel's fight against the cheats in the Comelec.

The irony is that Pimentel was in the winning circle of the Magic 12 when Zubiri made the statement. Zubiri was then in 13th place. Wasn't it funny that a losing candidate was asking a winning candidate to accept defeat?

If Zubiri sincerely meant that he could take defeat, then maybe he should do just that—concede and show the world that he did mean what he said. Otherwise, words without actions are just words—nothing more, nothing less.

—REYNALDO FLOIRENDO,
10 June St., Congressional Village,
Project 8, Quezon City

Competent lawyers also applying to become judges

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE NEWS ITEM regarding the "Global Corruption Report" of Transparency International. (INQUIRER, 6/3/07) The report noted the relatively low pay for judges, thus discouraging competent lawyers from joining the judiciary despite the many vacancies.

In this connection, it is instructive to point out that under Sec. 9, Article VIII of the Philippine Constitution, judges of lower courts shall be appointed by the President. I do not know if it involves political considerations. I agree that our judges are underpaid. I believe, however, that there are competent lawyers applying for the position, despite the low pay.

Under Sec. 5 of the same article, it is provided that the Supreme Court shall have the power to appoint all officials and employees of the judiciary in accordance with the Civil Service Law. The endorsement by the judge is a major consideration. I should know. I have been a lawyer for almost seven years and a court legal researcher 2 for almost 11 years.

—JOSE B. FLORES,
336 Francisco St., San Rafael Village,
Navotas, Metro Manila

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Unpaid taxes for Baguio Marcos mansions pile up

BAGUIO CITY—FORmer First Lady Imelda Marcos may have been cleared of tax evasion charges, but she is still liable for unpaid taxes for seven Marcos mansions here that are now under government custody.

The mansions have been described as now in an "irreversible state of disrepair."

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said the city government wants to redeem 20 years worth of taxes from properties allegedly owned by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' widow, his son, Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., and his daughters, former Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos and Irene Marcos-Araneta.

THE LATE newspaper publisher Hans Menzi was supposedly the original owner of this small estate which he allegedly handed over to former First Daughter Irene Marcos. Of the five mansions which the government sequestered in 1986, this is the only property that appears "liable." A section of the lot has been squatted on.
VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Not habitable

Another compound that has been under sequestration belongs to the late newspaper publisher Hans Menzi.

Most of these houses are no longer habitable because of their state of decay, according to a security agency hired by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to man them.

Tax experts and real estate lawyers estimate that the properties could sell in the open market for at least P100 million.

The seven Marcos mansions here are located on Outlook Drive, a prime real estate corridor that bridges the presidential Mansion and the Mines View Park.

But only a portion of the property identified with Mrs. Marcos had been sold in a 2000 government auction.

Honorio Carlos Estepa, a broker, said many have been interested in buying the pieces of Marcos properties but "no one will take the risk because none of the Marcoses have been convicted."

MRS. IMELDA Marcos during her speech at the Philippine business leaders forum in Makati City.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Sorry state

Estepa said all of these mansions will be recorded as "lis pendens," even after government perfects their forfeiture in court because the Marcoses still have a stake in them.

"Lis pendens" is the annotation included on land titles to alert potential buyers that the property is the subject of pending suits.

Although the houses may be "in a sorry state," real estate valuation still counts them as assets, Estepa said. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

THIS A-framed Baguio house was allegedly the bachelor's pad of Ilocos Norte Gov. Bongbong Marcos. Sequestered by the government after 1986, it is now a public hazard to motorists taking the route to Itogon town which lies below it.
VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

2004 bombing suspect falls

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—GOVernment agents arrested in Tacurong City on Tuesday a suspect in the spate of attacks in Central Mindanao since 2004, including the market blast here that killed 15 people in December of that year and the April attack in Tacurong City that killed five people.

Supt. Teng Tocao, Sultan Kudarat police provincial director, said the team also recovered bomb-making paraphernalia from the house of Jabiri Abdul, alias Beds.

He declined to give additional information saying Abdul is still undergoing tactical interrogation.

But Senior Supt. Alfredo Toroctocon, intelligence chief of the Central Mindanao police, said a tip led to the arrest of Abdul, a resident of Purok Narra in Barangay New Pasi, Tacurong City.

Toroctocon said Abdul, a Pakistan-trained electronic bomb expert, was arrested by virtue of a court order.

Supt. Eduardo Bangeles, deputy intelligence chief of the Central Mindanao police, said Abdul was not able to resist arrest.

Brig. Gen. Edgardo Gurrea, chief of the government coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said Abdul, who also uses the aliases Jabide Abdul, Jabidi Kusain and Kabidi Kusain, is a member of a local terror group identified with the Jemaah Islamiyah.

He said the group's members could have also received bomb-making lessons from Indonesian experts Dulmatin and Omar Patek, who are also objects of a nationwide manhunt.

Toroctocon said two witnesses have submitted affidavits identifying Abdul as a suspect in the bombings. *Aquiles Zonio, Edwin Fernandez, Eldie Aguirre, Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

Younger bishop to head war on 'jueteng'

DAGUPAN CITY—ARCHBISHOP OSCAR CRUZ has named Bishop Socrates Villegas of Balanga, Bataan, as his successor as chair of the crusade groups against "jueteng" and illegal gambling.

"It was difficult to find somebody who would take over because nobody wanted to take the hot seat. But I always have in mind Bishop Villegas and I will gladly turn over my seat to him when my retirement letter (as archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan) is accepted," Cruz told the INQUIRER.

Cruz heads both the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng and Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Sugal.

When Cruz offered the position to Villegas, the Bataan bishop did not immediately accept it, taking 10 days for him to decide. "I told him, *'Wala akong makuha* (there are no takers) I thought of you for a long time," he said.

Cruz has given Villegas reading materials on jueteng and legal gambling and "he reviewed them and he knows about (the games) already."

He said he knew Villegas can lead the crusade groups because "he has stature of his own, he is courageous and straight, he is credible and whenever he talks, people listen."

"Villegas has been in Manila for a long time and people know him. He has connection with the people of power and authority. *Pakiusapan lang 'yan eh* (You have to talk with them)," he added.

Cruz, 73, has offered to retire and is waiting for its acceptance. He has been the archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan for 15 years, where he launched the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng in 2000.

But he assured that the groups will continue and even be more strengthened after he retires as head of the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese.

It was not an easy job, he said of the chairmanship of Krusada. *"Hindi kami nananalo but di rin natatalo sa laban* (We do not win but we do not lose the fight)."

Cruz became a news celebrity of sorts when he was called to a Senate hearing after his exposés on powerful people receiving big amounts from jueteng operators.

But he received several death threats through phone calls and letters, along with offers of bribes for him to stop his crusade.

The Krusada gave Medalya ng Karangalan to government and police officials of towns, cities and provinces which were reported to be free from the illegal numbers game.

But what Cruz considered as the biggest achievement of the Krusada is that it made many people conscious about the evils of jueteng and they have become "ashamed" of being associated with it.

"The tri-media (print, TV and radio) continuously denounced jueteng," he added.

He also claimed that jueteng operations were no longer as extensive as before and that many towns, cities and provinces were freed from the illegal numbers game. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for pre-qualification to bid for the provision of operation and maintenance services for building engineering systems and equipment at ADB Headquarters Building, located at No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
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4. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for pre-qualification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the Attention of the Head, Procurement and Contracting Unit, Room 1630 South, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, not later than **4:00 P.M., 3 August 2007**, and be clearly marked **"Application to Pre-qualify for Operation and Maintenance Services for Building Engineering Systems and Equipment."**
5. Only pre-qualified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB. Bid documents will be issued to pre-qualified bidders from **26 September to 9 October 2007**.
6. This Invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the pre-qualification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for pre-qualification.

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S
FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
SUPREME STEEL DETAILING SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. U-2207 & 2208 Tycoon Ctr. Condominium, Pearl Dr., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Reynaldo Dy	Manager
NO.1 ACTIVITY NETWORK SYSTEM (NANS), INC. Unit 22pc Eisenhower Condominium, # 7 Eisenhower St., San Juan M.M.	Jeongwook Lee	Asst. Exec. Marketing
KOREA JIMEI CORPORATION Rm. 209 Antel Seaview Tower, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Yusung Lim	Operations Manager
KOREA JIMEI CORPORATION Rm. 209 Antel Seaview Tower, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Kyung Sun Oh	General Manager
MANGA KISSA TEN BOOKS SHOP Slim's Fashion School Bldg., # 23 Chino Roces Ave., Brgy. Pio del Pilar, Makati City	Ryoji Hayashi	Consultant
FERMAT ACADEMY, INC. 1216 Ayala Ave., Units 1001-1003 Alabang Business Tower, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Seung Hea Her	General Manager
FERMAT ACADEMY, INC. 1216 Ayala Ave., Units 1001-1003 Alabang Business Tower, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Juyun Lee	Comptroller
AMBERGRIS SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 31 F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Vickie Featherston Lene	Client Representative of TXU Energy
TAIWAN OVERSEAS MINING CO. PHILIPPINES, INC. 4/F CJV Bldg., 108 Aguirrre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Shu Chuan Kuo	Vice President & Officer In Charge
GLOBAL MADE APPAREL INC. 4/F CJV Bldg., 108 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Hou-Chung Tsu	Information Technology Head
DONA DONA SAMKYUPSAL HOUSE, INC. Unit 1-D 8101 Pearl Plaza, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Seyeal Park	Manager
LJ LEARNING CENTER ALABANG INC. 2/F Auto Zentrum Bldg., MBP Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Soo Kyung Kim (w/o Lee)	General Manager
KPT-KIM PARK TEXTILE TRADING CORP. 538 MRR Rd., Manggahan, Pasig City	Jong Moon Kim	General Manager
VIVI ENGLISH TRAINING CENTER INC. 2/F Vargas Bldg., 103 Kalayaan Ave., Brgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City	Chang Woon Park	Comptroller
ILYOSHINMUN, INC. 3/F Goodwill Bldg., 393 Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Jung Park	General Manager
FIRST EL PRESIDENTE MANUFACTURING, INC. Unit 308 Jollibee Plaza Condominium, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Ku-Han Lin	Marketing Manager
MALAYSIAN INT'L. TRADING CORP. SDN BHD (MITCO) 15/F Citibank Tower, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Chee Leong Tan	Country Representative
STARRY SKY CONSULTANCY CORPORATION 801 Centerpoint Bldg., Garnet Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jungwon Lee (wife of PARK)	Operation Manager
ARAMA CORPORATION 48 Belmont Drive, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jun Cho	General Manager
MANPOWER OUTSOURCING SERVICES, INC. 19/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sun Young Park	Korean SAP Agent
H & P FAMILY TRAVEL CORP. 338-B Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City	Hyo Dong Park	Sales Manager
NOKIA SIEMENS NETWORKS PHILIPPINES, INC. 20/F Philam Life Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Gregory Michael Friederich	Account Controller, Globe CT
OFT LENDING INC. Unit 20A Wynsum Corporate Plaza, 22 Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Chang Keun Oh	Consultant for Foreign Investments
HAPPY GREEN JANTECH INTERNATIONAL, INC. U1710 Tycoon Centre, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Hyo Jin Hyun	General Manager
KUEHNE & NAGEL, INC. JJM Bldg., 5 NAIA Parañaque City	Clinton Eckersall	Seafreight General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

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LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–July 5, 2007)

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Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

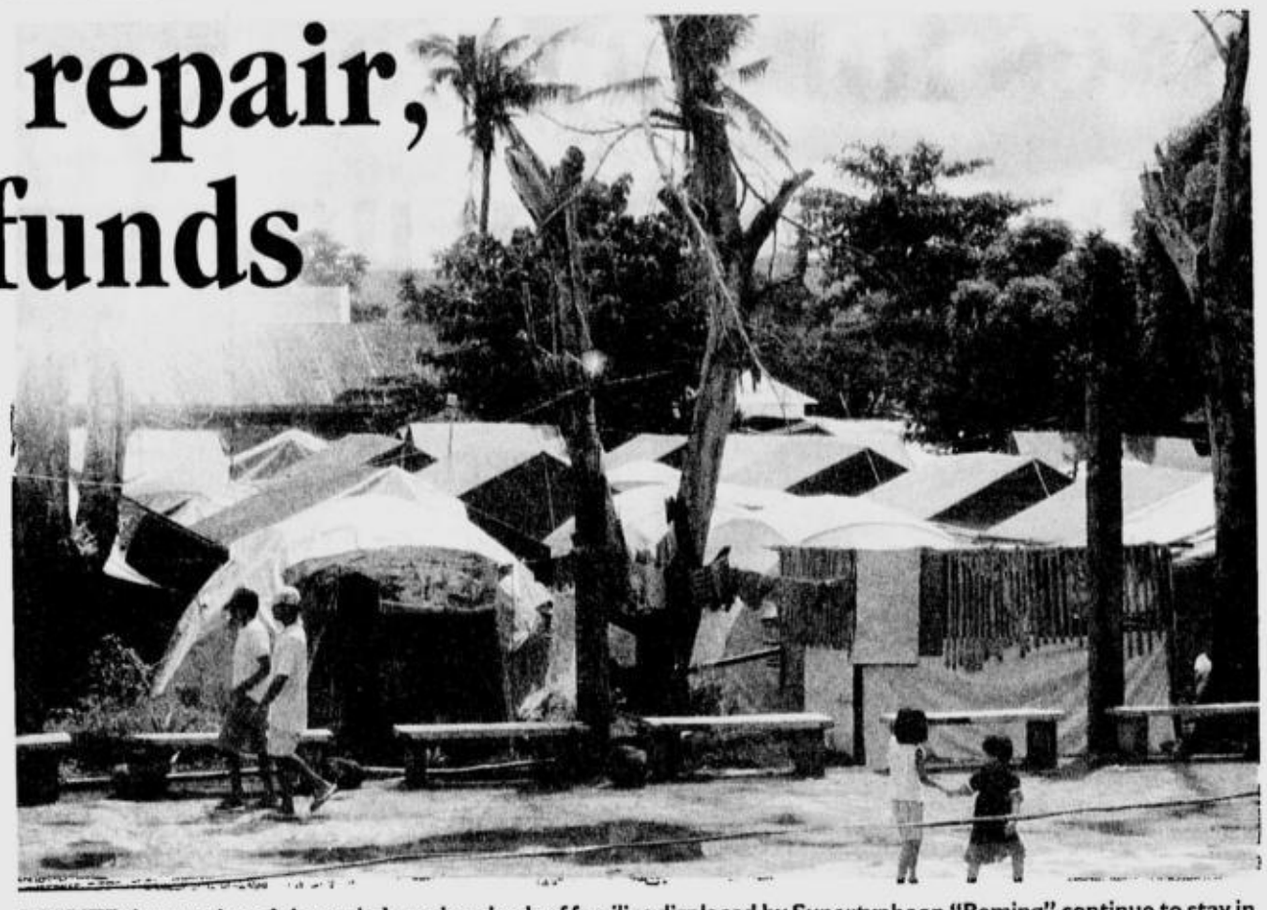
So much repair, so little funds

By Ephraim Aguilar
Legazpi City

THEY'VE BEEN THERE FOR seven months now—the Supertyphoon "Reming" refugees living in tents, and they don't know when they will finally be relieved from all the hassles of tent life.

Amid calls by local government officials for a speedy release of funds for disaster rehabilitation, President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday ordered the fast implementation of programs that will provide permanent shelters to thousands of villagers displaced by lahar late last year.

Newly appointed Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, also the National Disaster Coordinating Council chair, said the government "has given enough resources and it's just a matter of implementing this in coordination with the local government units."



DESPITE the opening of classes in June, hundreds of families displaced by Supertyphoon "Reming" continue to stay in tents in Tagas Elementary School.

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

But for the past three months, the LGUs and agencies have not just been claiming delayed release of funds but have also lamented the "drop in the bucket."

The government has released P10 billion under the Calamity Assistance, Rehabilitation Effort (CARE) project of the government, to be divided among line agencies. As to how much more are expected to be released, no exact figures were given to the media.

DPWH regional director Orlando Roces earlier said that his office had received P1.3 billion, but it would not be enough to fund long-term projects for rehabilitation.

"The amount is too small if you look at the damage caused by the disaster. Only P770 million would be allotted for Albay out of the total budget for Bicol and it will be used for short-term projects like the repair of roads, bridges and some flood-control facilities," Roces said.

The DPWH reported to have already completed almost 80 percent of the infrastructure projects worth P1.8 billion and 25 percent for CARE projects amounting to P1.3 billion.

Albert Perfecto, deputy area management officer of the National Housing Authority in Bicol, also said that the agency received the Special Allotment Release Order (Saro) only on June 1 for the P500 million intended for the NHA resettlement plan. The Saro signals the start of the bidding process before the purchase of materials.

A total of P250 million was initially released to the NHA from the fund.

Site development

"We were expecting to receive the funds during Holy Week because it would have been better to develop the relocation sites during summer and not during the rainy season," Perfecto, an engineer, said.

He added that the NHA was supposed to fast-track site development, creating drainage systems, water and power supply systems, and road networks, but the delayed release of funds "paralyzed" the agency.

Due to the pressing need of relocation, nongovernment organizations like the Gawad Kalinga, Daughters of Charity, Habitat for Humanity and many others, had to start building houses even if the relocation sites were not yet developed.

Perfecto said Albay had already 10 relocation sites with a total area of 96.56 hectares, which will require P306.17 million to develop.

Four more sites totaling 39.45 ha will be acquired, and their development will cost P126.25 million.

Site development would take three to four months in a compressed schedule and six to seven months in a normal schedule, Perfecto said.

The NHA still needed P500 million more from the government to develop enough relocation sites of 100 more ha, he said.

No date was announced as to when families living in tents and makeshift shelters would be transferred to new homes.

Jaimelyn Elep, 32, who is staying at a camp in Barangay Anislag, said that each time a batch of newly built houses was being raffled by the Daughters of Charity, she could only wish it would be her name that would be picked.

School also houses evacuees

By Jaymee T. Gamil
Legazpi City

IT IS A PRODUCT OF LESSONS learned from calamities.

Called the Lapus or Learning and Public Use School after its initiator, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, the building is touted as typhoon- and earthquake-resistant.

Its floors are raised by at most one meter from the ground to evade floods, and its ceiling is reinforced with 20-millimeter steel bars.

The building could house up to 126 students or 12 families. It has bathrooms and a kitchen.

On normal days, the Lapus serves as a classroom. During catastrophes, it is a sanctuary for people suffering from the effects of typhoons, volcanic eruptions and other calamities.

Secretary Lapus visited the Bagumbayan Central School in Legazpi City seven months ago and saw it as a center for families whose homes were destroyed by Supertyphoon "Reming." The last time he visited the school, he said, it was flooded. Only one building was left standing to house the evacuees.

On June 16, Lapus returned to inaugurate the country's first Lapus building and to launch the revised DepEd Educational Facilities Handbook.

"School buildings are also used as evacuation centers, so we might as well make sure that the buildings we use for evacuation are safe," he said.

He said the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) has offered to adopt the Lapus prototype and build 12 more in Bicol. This would complement the 18 buildings that the DepEd would be putting up.

With all the projects directed toward rehabilitating Legazpi, Lapus said the string of calamities that Bicol had endured last year could be considered blessings in disguise.

"Sometimes to build, we have to destroy. Because of the calamities, there has been an outpouring of support from the government, nongovernment offices and even multinational companies," he said.

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE JULY 21, 2007 PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY THE CONVERSION OF LAPU-LAPU CITY FROM A COMPONENT CITY INTO A HIGHLY-URBANIZED CITY. PURSUANT TO PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO 1222 DATED JANUARY 23 2007

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	Chairman
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Jr. Florentino A.	Commissioner
BRAWNER, Romeo A.	Commissioner
SARMIENTO, Rene V.	Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T.	Commissioner

Promulgated: 04 June 2007

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RESOLUTION NO. 8141

The Commission on Elections by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code the Local Government Code of 1991, Republic Act No 7166 and other election laws RESOLVED to promulgate as it hereby RESOLVES to promulgate, the following rules and regulations to govern the conduct of the July 21, 2007 plebiscite to ratify the conversion of Lapu-Lapu City from a component city into a highly-urbanized city pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1222 dated January 23, 2007.

SEC. 1. Supervision and control. - The Commission on Elections shall have direct control and supervision over the conduct of the plebiscite

SEC 2. Expenses and election forms and paraphernalia. - The expenses in holding the plebiscite, which shall include the printing of official ballots, plebiscite returns and other forms, the procurement of supplies and paraphernalia, the per diems of the members of the Plebiscite Committees, the overtime compensation of the City Plebiscite Board of Canvassers (CPBC), and their support staff, other operational and incidental expenses, and the costs of publication of resolutions and information materials, shall be borne by Lapu-Lapu City.

For this purpose the Deputy Executive Director for Operations (ODEDO) shall require the City Election Officer of Lapu-Lapu City to prepare the budgetary requirements of its office submit the budget for the holding of the plebiscite, and require the proponent to immediately appropriate and remit the necessary amount

The Committees on Allocation Printing Reception and Verification, Packing and Shipping Information Technology Department and Administrative Services Department shall prepare their itemized administrative, operational and technical budgetary needs, which shall be reviewed and consolidated by the ODEDO, and shall submit the same to the Commission *En Banc* for approval

SEC. 3. Posting of Proclamation No. 1222. - At least ten (10) days prior to the day of the plebiscite the EO of Lapu-Lapu City shall cause the posting of copies of Proclamation No. 1222 in all the poling places of Lapu-Lapu City

SEC 4. Information campaign - An objective information campaign shall be conducted in the whole of Lapu-Lapu City to commence on June 30, 2007 up to July 19, 2007 During this period, civic, professional, religious, business youth and any other similar organizations may hold symposia, public rallies or meetings to enlighten the voters of Lapu-Lapu City on the plebiscite issues, and to campaign for or against the ratification of Proclamation No 1222. Constructive discussions and debates shall be encouraged and the voters assured of the freedom to voice their opinion regarding the issues advantages or disadvantages thereof

The EO of Lapu-Lapu City in coordination with the Local government officials mass media, NGOs and religious groups shall convene barangay assemblies or "pulong-pulong for such constructive discussions and debates

SEC. 5. Date of plebiscite and voting hours. The plebiscite shall be held on July 21, 2007 (Saturday) The voting shall start at seven o clock in the morning and end at three o clock in the afternoon

SEC. 6. Area of coverage - The plebiscite shall be held in the whole of Lapu-Lapu City

SEC 7. Who may vote. - All qualified voters of Lapu-Lapu City duly registered as of the May 14, 2007 National and Local Elections are entitled to vote in the plebiscite

The EO of Lapu-Lapu City shall prepare the lists of voters for use in the plebiscite in accordance with Section 12 hereof

SEC. 8. Plebiscite Committee Composition, Compensation, Duties and Functions. - The voting and counting of votes shall be conducted in each polling place by a Plebiscite Committee (Committee) composed of a Chairman, Poll Clerk and a Third Member who shall be public school teachers to be appointed by the Commission through the EO of Lapu-Lapu City. In case there are not enough public school teachers, the EO shall appoint teachers in private schools employees in the civil services or other citizens of known probity and competence who are registered voters of the municipality, provided that the Chairman of the Committee shall be a public school teacher

Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to a per diem of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000 00) for services rendered on the day of the plebiscite

The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) Supervise and conduct the voting in the polling place on July 21, 2007;

(b) Count the votes and thereafter prepare the plebiscite returns and other required documents/reports and distribute the same as herein provided,

(c) Furnish watchers certificate of votes upon request,

(d) Return the books of voters to the EO, through the principal of the poling centers, and deliver the other plebiscite paraphernalia to the respective custodians for safekeeping not later than July 23, 2007,

(e) Act as deputies of the Commission in the supervision and control of the plebiscite in the polling places wherein they are assigned to ensure the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible plebiscite

(f) Maintain order within the polling place and its premises to keep access thereto, open and unobstructed, and to enforce obedience to its lawful orders.

If any person shall refuse to obey lawful orders of the Committee or shall conduct himself in a disorderly manner in its presence or within its hearing thereby interrupting or disturbing its proceedings the Committee may issue an order in writing directing any peace officer to take such person into custody until the adjournment of the meeting, but such order shall not be executed as to prevent the person so taken into custody from exercising his right to vote Such order shall be executed by any peace officer to whom it may be delivered, but if none is present, by any other person deputized by the Committee in writing and

(g) Perform such other functions/ duties as may be prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 9. Disqualification. - (a) No person shall serve as chairman or member of the Committee if he is related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the same Committee

(b) No member of the Committee shall engage, directly or indirectly, in any partisan political activity or take part in the plebiscite, except to discharge his duties as such, and to vote provided he is a registered voter of Lapu-Lapu City

SEC. 10 Precincts and polling places. - For purposes of the July 21, 2007 plebiscite, the precints established for the May 14, 2007 National and Local Elections shall be adopted, subject to the provisions of Section 11 hereof

The location of polling places designated for the said elections shall be maintained with such changes as the Commission may authorized after notice and hearing to the interested parties in the political unit affected Provided that no location of poling place shall be changed within fifteen (15) days immediately preceding the day of the plebiscite except when it is destroyed or it cannot be used

SEC. 11. Clustering of Precints. - To obviate problems on insufficiency of Committees and pollingp laces, the EO shall group (cluster) precints in accordance with the following guidelines

(a) The number of precints in a group (cluster) shall not be more than two (2),

(b) The aggregate number of voters in a group shall not exceed four hundred (400).

(c) The precincts in a group shall belong to the same territory, same poling center and same barangay;

(d) The individual precint numbers and list of voters of the precincts in a group shall be maintained separately In no case shall they be combined, and

(e) The ballots for the precints in a group shall be deposited in one ballot box and that one Plebiscite Committee shall be assigned for each group of precinct or precinct cluster

SEC. 12. Precinct Level Computerized Voters List (PCVL) and Election Day Computerized Voters List (EDCVL). The EO of Lapu-Lapu City shall print six (6) copies of PCVL which shall be certified by the Election Registration Board (ERB). The two (2) copies of the PCVL shall be given to the Committees for use on plebiscite day The other four (4) copies of the PCVL shall be distributed as follows,

(a) One copy for posting at the Office of the Election Officer of Lapu-Lapu City;

(b) One copy for posting at the bulletin board of the City Hall of Lapu-Lapu City,

(c) One copy of the National Central File, Election Records and Statistics Department, Commission on Elections Manila, and

(d) One copy of the Province File, Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor of Cebu.

The Information Technology Department shall print two (2) copies of the Election Day Computerized Voters List (EDCVL)

SEC. 13. Distribution of Plebiscite Forms and Supplies. - The City Treasurer shall, in coordination with the EO distribute the plebiscite forms and supplies to the Committees The EO or his authorized representatives shall release the Books of Voters and the PCVL to the School Principal concerned who shall in turn release them to the Plebiscite Committees

SEC. 14. Official ballots. The Official ballots shall be distributed at the ratio of one ballot per voter

The Official ballots to be used in the plebiscite shall bear the following heading "OFFICIAL BALLOT"; "PLEBISCITE"; "JULY 21, 2007"; "LAPU-LAPU CITY"; and underneath the following instructions "Fill out this ballot secretly inside the booth. Do not put any distinctive mark on any part of this ballot."

The following question shall be provided in the offical ballots.

"DO YOU APPROVE OF THE CONVERSION OF LAPU-LAPU CITY FROM A COMPONENT CITY INTO A HIGHLY-URBANIZED CITY, PURSUANT TO PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 1222?"

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SEC. 15. Preliminaries to the Counting of Votes. - (a) The Committee shall clear the table of all unnecessary writing paraphernalia

(b) The Committee shall open the ballot box, take out the ballots from the compartment for valid ballots and, without unfolding or exposing their contents, examine them using the following guidelines

1. Ballots folded together - The Committee shall ascertain that each fold consists of a single ballot
   If in the course of the examination ballot are found folded together before they were deposited in the ballot box, they shall be placed in an envelope for excess ballots
2. Excess ballots - The Committee shall count the ballots and compare the number of ballots with the number of voters who actually voted
   If there are more ballots than the number of voters who actually voted, follow the procedures provided for in Sec. 16 hereof.
3. Ballots with detachable coupons - In case ballots with their detachable coupon are found in the box the coupon shall be detached and deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots, and the ballots shall be included in the pile of valid ballots
4. Ballots with the word "Spoiled" - If ballots with the word "spoiled" should be found, they shall be placed in the compartment for spoiled ballots
   The ballots deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots shall be presumed to be spoiled ballots, whether or not they contain such notation, but if the Committee should find that during the voting any valid ballot was erroneously deposited in this compartment or if any ballot separated as excess or marked had been erroneously deposited therein, the Committee shall open said compartment after the voting and before the counting of votes for the sole purpose of drawing out the ballots erroneously deposited therein It shall then prepare and sign a statement of such fact and lock the box with its three keys immediately thereafter The valid ballots so withdrawn shall be mixed with the other valid ballots, and the excess or marked ballots shall be placed in their proper envelopes which shall for such purposes be opened and again labeled sealed signed and kept as thereinafter provided

(c) Excess and spoiled ballots shall not be read in the counting of votes

(d) The poll clerk shall take hold of the plebiscite returns and the third member shall tack the tally board on the blackboard or any available space within the plain view of the Committee, watchers and the public

SEC. 16. Manner of Counting of Votes. - The counting of votes shall be public without interruption or delay until completed and shall proceed as follows

a. The Committee shall open the ballot box, take out the ballots and without unfolding them or exposing their contents except so far as to ascertain that each ballot is single compare the number of ballots in the box with the number of voters who actually voted as recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting

b. If there are more ballots found than there are voters who actually voted all the ballots shall be returned inside the box and thoroughly mixed therein. The Poll Clerk without seeing the ballots and with his back to the box, shall publicly draw out as many ballots as may be equal to the excess and without unfolding them, place them in an envelope which shall be marked "excess ballots," sealed and signed by the Committee.
   If there are no excess or the excess has been taken out the Committee shall form separate piles of 100 ballots each which shall be held together by rubber band

c. The Chairman shall take the ballots of the first pile and read the ballots one by one, while the Poll Clerk and Third Member shall simultaneously record on the plebiscite returns and tally board respectively each vote as it is read by the Chairman
   Each vote shall be recorded by a vertical line except every fifth vote, which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical lines
   After finishing the first pile, the Committee shall count the tallies for the Affirmative and Negative votes and record the sub-totals in the column immediately after the last tara recorded in the plebiscite returns and tally board, respectively
   The Poll Clerk and the Third Member shall compare the tallies reflected in the plebiscite returns and tally board
   In case of discrepancy, a recount shall be made. The ballots shall again be grouped together as before the reading

d. Thereafter, the same procedures shall be followed with the second and subsequent piles of ballots

e. After all the ballots for the precinct have been counted the Committee shall
   1. Sum up the sub-totals of recorded Affimative and Negative Votes and enter the grand total in words and in figure in the plebiscite returns and tally board,
   2. See to it that the entries in the first copy of the plebiscite returns are clearly impressed and reflected properly in the other two (2) copies;
   3. Sign and affix their thumb marks on the certification portion printed at the bottom of the plebiscite returns and tally board, and
   4. Place the counted ballots in an envelope provided for the purpose, close the envelope with a serially numbered paper seal, sign and deposit the same in the compartment for valid ballots The accomplished tally board, certified by the Committee, shall also be deposited in the compartment for valid ballots

SEC. 17. Appreciation of Ballots. The provisions of Sec 211 of the Omnibus Election Code whenever applicable shall govern the appreciation of ballots Any question on the appreciation of ballots shall be decided by majority vote of the Committee

No watcher or any other person inside the polling place shall be allowed to participate in the appreciation of ballots. However any watcher may file a protest, which shall be recorded in the Minutes

SEC. 18. Plebiscite Returns and Distribution of Copies Thereof. Plebiscite returns shall be prepared in three (3) copies All the members of the Committee shall sign the certification printed at the bottom of the plebiscite returns and affix their respective thumb marks on the space provided.

Upon completion of the plebiscite returns, each copy shall be placed in separate envelopes provided for the purpose, and the Committee shall immediately distribute the same under proper receipt as follows

(1) The first copy, to the City Plebiscite Board of Canvassers;

(2) The Second copy, to the Election Records and Statistics Department of the Commission in Manila; and

(3) The third copy shall be deposited inside the ballot box.

SEC. 19. Announcement of Results. - Upon completion of the plebiscite returns the Chairman of the Committee shall orally and publicly announce the total number of Affirmative and Negative Votes cast and counted in the precinct

SEC. 20. Alterations and Corrections of Plebiscite Returns. - Any correction or alteration made in the plebiscite returns by the Committee before the announcement of the results of the plebiscite in the polling place shall be duly initialed by all the members thereof

After the announcement of the results of the plebiscite, the Committee shall not make any alteration or amendment in any of the copies of the returns, unless ordered by the Commission.

SEC. 21. Certificates of Votes. - Before leaving the precinct, the Committee shall issue a Certificate of Votes to the watchers upon the latter's request

SEC. 22. Delivery of the Ballot Boxes, and Other Supplies and Documents, Preservation of Voting Records, Ballot Boxes and their Keys, and their Disposition. - The provisions of Section 217, 218 and 219 of the Omnibus Election Code on delivery of ballot boxes, keys and election supplies and documents preservation of the voting records and ballot boxes, and their keys and disposition of their contents shall apply to the plebiscite governed by this Resolution.

SEC. 23. Plebiscite Board of Canvassers - There shall be one (1) City Plebiscite Board of Canvassers (CPBC) for Lapu-Lapu City which shall canvass the plebiscite returns submitted by the Committees The CPBC shall be composed of the incumbent City Election Officer or a lawyer of the Commission, as Chairman, and as members, the City Prosecutor and the Schools Division Superintendent thereat subject to Sec. 27 hereof

The CPBC may create such number of sub-canvassing committees to expedite the canvass of the plebiscite results in the seven hundred thirty one (731) clustered precincts The members of the sub-canvassing committees shall be the same as the composition of the CPBC or their respresentative

At least five (5) days before the day of the plebiscite the chairman shall issue a written notice to the other members of the CPBC that it shall convene at four o clock in the afternoon of plebiscite day to canvass the plebiscite returns Notice of said meeting shall be posted in conspicuous places in the City Hall and other public places in Lapu-Lapu City The CPBC shall meet at the City Session Hall of Lapu-Lapu City not later than four o clock in the afternoon of plebiscite day and shall immediately canvass the plebiscite returns and shall not adjourn until the canvass is completed

SEC. 24. Supervision and Control over the City Plebiscite Board of Canvassers - The Commission shall have direct control of and supervision over the CPBC and may motu propio relieve at any time any member thereof for cause and may substitute him in accordance with Sec. 27 hereof

SEC. 25. Absence of a Regular Member. - In case of absence of a regular member, the members present shall first verify whether or not the notice stating the date, time and place of canvassing has been duly served on the absent regular member

In the absence of such notice, one shall be immediately sent to the absent member If the latter cannot be located, or his whereabouts are unknown he shall then be substituted These facts shall be recorded in the respective minutes of the CPBC As soon as the absent member appears, the substitute member shall relinquish his seat to the regular member

SEC. 26. Incapacitated Regular Member. - In case of sickness or serious injury of the regular member a sworn medical certificate shall be required attesting to the incapacity of said member Upon submission of the medical certificate, a substitute shall be appointed. Said certificate shall be recorded in the Minutes of the MPBC

SEC. 27. Substitution of Chairman and Members. - In case of non-availability, absence, disqualification due to relationship, or incapacity for any cause of the chairman, the Commission shall appoint a lawyer of the Commission as substitute With respect to the other members of the CPBC the Commission shall appoint as substitute the following in the order named City Administrator, the City Assessor, the Clerk of Court nominated by the Executive Judge of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities, and other available appointee City official

SEC. 28. Prohibition Against Leaving Official Station - During the period beginning July 21 2007 until the completion of the canvass, no member or substitute member of the CPBC shall be transferred assigned or detailed outside of his official station nor shall he leave his station without prior authority of the Commission

SEC. 29. Quorum. - A majority of the members of the CPBC shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business A majority vote of all the members thereof shall be necessary to render a decision

SEC. 30. Watchers: Rights and Duties. - The proponents and oppositions registered political parties or coalition of political parties the citizens' arm of the Commission, if any, and other accredited groups or organizations may appoint watchers during the voting counting and canvassing A person who is not a registered voter of the City, of questionable reputation or who has been convicted of an election offense or any other crime shall not be appointed as watcher. Barangay officials, including barangay tanods, are disqualified to serve as watchers

The watchers shall have the right to

(a) be present at, and take note of all the proceedings,

(b) read the plebiscite returns without touching them and

(c) file a protest against any irregularity noted in the plebiscite return or in the proceedings of the Board and obtain the resolution thereon in writing

The watcher shall not be allowed to participate in the deliberation of the CPBC

SEC. 31. Right to be Present and to Counsel. - Proponents or oppositors have the right to be present and to counsel during the canvass of the returns Only one counsel shall argue for the proponent or oppositor In case there are several counsel for the proponents or oppositors they shall agree among themselves who will argue for them

SEC. 32 Internal Canvassing Procedures. The CPBC shall meet promptly at 4 00 o'clock in the afternoon of plebiscite day and canvass the votes in the following manner

a. The Chairman of the CPBC shall list sequentially all precincts in the Statement of Votes (SOVs) by precinct and ensure that every precinct in the project of precincts is listed therein The CPBC Chairman shall produce before the members the ballot boxes containing plebiscite returns

b. Before opening a ballot box, the CPBC shall record the conditions and serial numbers of the ballot boxes and the self-locking serially numbered fixed length seals.

c. The Chairman of the CPBC shall then open the ballot box, retrieve the envelopes containing plebiscite returns and record in its Minutes of Canvass, the condition and serial number of the envelopes and their paper seals.

d. The Chairman of the CPBC shall open the envelope one at a time, record the condition and serial number of the returns and its paper seal, and forthwith open the same for canvassing Only such number of envelopes containing plebiscite returns that can be canvassed during the meeting of the board shall be opened which number shall be recorded in the Minutes of Canvass
   Entries of the SOV by Precinct shall be made every time a plebiscite return is canvassed Once all the columns of the SOV are filed up the members of the CPBC shall sum up the number of precincts canvassed, the number of registered voters, the number of voters who actually voted and the total Affirmative and Negative votes therein, and thereafter affix their initials below their names appearing at the certification portion of the form.

e. In case its copy of a plebiscite returns is missing, the CPBC shall obtain such missing returns from the Plebiscite Committee concerned If said returns have been lost or destroyed, the CPBC, upon prior authority of the Commission may use any of the authentic copies of said returns or a certified copy thereof issued by the Commission Forthwith the CPBC shall refer the case for investigation to the Regional Election Director (RED) concerned who shall report his findings to the Commission, and

f. Each time the CPBC suspends its meetings or adjourns for the purpose of awaiting for the other plebiscite returns it shall

1. Determine the totals of all Affirmative and Negative votes canvassed.
2. Accomplish the SOV by precinct and close the same with the initials of the members following the last entry of Affirmative and Negative votes
3. Place the SOV in an envelope, which shall be sealed with a serially numbered paper seal and signed by the members in the presence of all the members of the board and the watchers and
4. Place the plebiscite returns already canvassed the remaining unopened envelopes and envelope containing a copy of the SOV inside a ballot box which shall be locked with three padlocks and a self-locking metal seal, the serial number of which shall be duly recorded in the Minutes of Canvass
   Each member of the CPBC shall keep a key to the three padlocks of a ballot box, so that it cannot be opened without all of them being present The ballot box shall be deposited in a secured room for safekeeping until the resumption of its meeting
5. At the resumption of the canvass the secretary of the CPBC shall
   a. Get the ballot box from the secured room and verify the condition of the ballot box, the three padlocks and the self-locking serially numbered fixed length seal,
   b. Enter in the Minutes a description of the condition thereof as well as the serial number of the self-locking serially numbered fixed length seals,
   c. Destroy the self-locking serially numbered fixed length seals in the presence of the other members of the board and watchers, and
   d. Present to the CPBC the remaining unopened envelopes containing plebiscite returns and the official SOV contained in a duly sealed and signed envelope
6. After all the plebiscite returns assigned to it have been canvassed, the CPBC concerned shall
   a. Prepare a tally of the total affirmative and negative votes including the data on the number of registered voters number of voters who actually voted and the total number of precincts it has canvassed Such tally should be publicly accessible to ensure transparency and
   b. Place the plebiscite returns copy for the PBC in their respective envelopes and deposit the same inside the ballot box which shall be locked with three padlocks and sealed with a self-locking metal seal
7. Each member of the CPBC shall keep a key corresponding to the three padlocks of the ballot box

SEC. 33. Minutes of the Canvass of the CPBC. The CPBC shall prepare three (3) copies of the Minutes of the Canvass

The first copy shall be submitted by the Secretary of the CPBC to the Law Department of the Commission within ten (10) days from termination of canvass The second copy shall be deposited inside the ballot box The third copy shall be forwarded to the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations

SEC. 34. Completion of the Canvass. - The CPBC shall sign the certification and affix their thumbmarks at the bottom of each SOV and, using a separate SOV, consolidate the data including the total Affirmative and Negative votes Thereafter, it shall prepare a Certificate of Canvass and Proclamation (COCP) which shall contain the following data.

1. number of precincts canvassed,
2. number of registered voters,
3. number of voters who actually voted,
4. number of affirmative or negative votes and
5. whether or not the affirmative and negative votes constitute a majority of the votes cast in the Barangay concerned

The COCP shall be supported by an SOV by precinct The members of the CPBC shall print their full names and affix signatures and thumbmarks in the proper space at the bottom of both forms and certify under oath that the entries therein are true and correct

SEC. 35. Distribution of the COCP. The COCP shall be prepared in four (4) copies, supported by a Statement of Votes per Precinct, and distributed as follows

(1) The original shall, within three (3) days from proclamation, be sent to the Election Records and Statistics Department of the Commission;

(2) The second copy shall be filed in the Office of the Election Officer;

(3) The third copy shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and

(4) The fourth copy shall be submitted to the City Mayor of Lapu-Lapu City

SEC. 36. Applicability of the Omnibus Election Code and Other Election Laws. - The pertinent provisions of the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No 7160 and other election laws and resolutions of the Commission which are not inconsistent herewith shall, as far as practicable, apply to the plebiscite subject of this Resolution.

SEC. 37. Implementation. - The Office of the Executive Director, the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations, assisted by Election and Barangay Affairs Department, Finance Services Department and Administrative Services Department, shall implement this Resolution to ensure the holding of a free orderly honest peaceful and credible plebiscite

The Deputy Executive Director for Operations assisted by the Regional Election Director of Region VII and the Provincial Election Supervisor of Cebu shall supervise the conduct of the plebiscite

SEC. 38. Dissemination. - Let this Resolution be published by the Education and Information Department (IED) in a newspaper of general circulation and in a newspaper with local circulation in Lapu-Lapu City The Deputy Executive Director for Operations shall furnish the Regional Election Director of Region VII, the Provincial Election Supervisor of Cebu, and the Election Officer of Lapu-Lapu City the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Secretary of the Department of Justice the Mayor of Lapu-Lapu City the City Treasurer and the DepEd Superintendent of Lapu-Lapu City, with a copy of this Resolution

The EO of Lapu-Lapu City shall give this Resolution the widest publicity in Lapu-Lapu City

SEC. 39. Effectivity. - This Resolution shall take effect upon its publication.

SO ORDERED

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

(PDI, July 5, 2007)

E-jeepney electrifies Makati folk

From page A1

transport on a metro-wide scale.

And from yesterday's demonstration under the hot mid-morning sun, city officials, environmentalists, business executives, and even pedestrians and commuters were of one mind: They liked what they saw.

"Imagine the jeepney as a purely electric machine that belches nothing, makes no noise, has a high headroom, comfortable seating and large windows," Solar Electric Co. president Panch Puckett said.

"You may even pass the mike around and enjoy sing-alongs while on your way to work," he added.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who was among the first to drive the e-jeepney, described the experience as "like riding a golf cart."

Push button gets it going

"It's very easy to ride. Because it's lighter, the jeepney drivers who are so used to the heavy diesel engines will feel a little weird at first, but it only takes a short while to get used to it," Puckett said.

"You do not hear the engine running. It's very silent and there's even a radio for you to check if it's on," Joey Salgado, the city's information and community relations department chief, said.

And how to start the vehicle? "You just push a button," Salgado said.

As the e-jeepneys traversed the busy section of Ayala Avenue, pedestrians on the sidewalks stopped to watch them whiz past, trailed by photographers and cameramen.

Drivers on the other lane rolled down their windows to watch the convoy, whose route started from the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Ayala toward the G3 Park in front of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, and back.

For Binay, the e-jeepneys represent the future of road travel in the financial capital.

Nationwide production

"We hope that we can introduce the electric jeepneys in other cities nationwide," he said during a brief program after the test run.

"Electric-powered jeepneys are set to revolutionize the Philippines' most recognizable icon," Greenpeace campaign director Von Hernandez said.

The e-jeepneys are a venture of Green Renewable Independent Power Producer Inc., which sprang from Greenpeace and other groups, and Solarco, which in turn is a part of GRIPP.

TRAFFIC-STOPPING HIT: Earth-friendly e-jeep wheels out on Ayala Avenue on Wednesday. It steers clear of the use of fossil fuels and minimizes air pollution and solid wastes. REM ZAMORA

Alternative to pollution

The campaign is part of GRIPP's Climate Friendly Cities Project, a multi-pronged program for mitigating climate change that promotes transport and waste management initiatives through renewable energy-based technology.

"The e-jeepneys aim to demonstrate that there are climate-friendly alternatives to the current polluting modes of public transportation in the Philippines," said Athena Ronquillo, GRIPP chair and lead proponent of the e-jeepney initiative.

"The iconic jeepney remains but without wasteful and carbon emitting diesel, and while providing increased incomes to the vehicles' drivers," she added.

Celebrities like Amanda Griffin, Juddah Paolo, Richard Gutierrez and Georgina Wilson, who all support Greenpeace, also graced the affair.

"Considering it has no gas tank (just a battery compartment), the e-jeepney runs purely on stored electricity, resulting in a much quieter and fumeless trip," Puckett said.

"Diesel-powered jeepneys actually waste more fuel while idling. In the case of the e-jeepney, when the driver steps on the break, the engine really stops. It doesn't idle," he said.

Long-term prospects

The battery that makes an e-jeepney run has a two-year warranty.

The e-jeepney can run 120 km on a single charge of eight hours, Puckett said.

"If the driver travels at an average speed of 40 kph nonstop, that translates to a three-hour working day. But the stops can extend his hours because the battery is not used up," Puckett said.

Binay said the city government and its partners had begun talks with major stakeholders, particularly leaders of jeepney drivers' associations, about the long-term prospects of the project.

"We have no intention of phasing out anybody in this business," Puckett said.

"This is just to keep people aware and open their minds that there are alternative engines—we're not talking about bodies but engines—in a market that can clean the environment," he added.

Break from the past

Yesterday, Binay signed an agreement for the leasing by the city of the two e-jeepneys from GRIPP. If the test run proves feasible, the city will lease more units, officials said.

Binay said they were also looking into the economics of the project.

"If the e-jeepney can help increase the income of jeepney drivers by removing their expenditure for diesel, then all the more reason for us to push ahead with the project," he said.

For Puckett, the introduction of the e-jeepney means "we have no choice but to improve our lives according to these innovations because everything just keeps getting better and better."

He said: "The e-jeepney will definitely change the way we think, design, drive, ride, and experience the mode of transportation that has become so much a part of being Filipino."

Live Earth concert aims to change world

From page A1

knowledge about the crisis and its solutions that they make this cause their own," Gore said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Then, you will see the entire political system shift dramatically."

Wall, an Emmy-winning concert producer who produced Live 8 and founded Live Earth, hopes Live Earth will change attitudes about global warming.

"This concert is not the solution," Wall said. "This concert is providing, hopefully, that global tipping point to start to get us into empowering people, get them into the tent."

Live Earth will send proceeds to the Alliance for Climate Protection, a nonprofit organization chaired by Gore. Tickets for the US concert range from $83 (euro61) to $348 (euro256). Wall was originally inspired to put on Live Earth after seeing "An Inconvenient Truth," the Academy Award-winning documentary on Gore's global warming slide show.

"The question I kept asking myself is, 'What can I do?'" Wall said.

6,000 parties

Concerts are scheduled for East Rutherford, New Jersey; London; Johannesburg, South Africa; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Shanghai, China; Tokyo; Sydney, Australia; and Hamburg, Germany. A band of scientists also will perform in Antarctica, stretching Live Earth across seven continents.

More than 150 artists will perform, including Madonna, the Police, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Alicia Keys. Sixty short films and 30 public service announcements have been produced, which will be broadcast between performances.

IN THE KNOW

It all started in Woodstock

NEW YORK—POP CONCERTS WITH A MESSAGE date back at least to Woodstock in 1969, when an estimated half a million young people gathered in a field in New York State to celebrate love and rock music, and also oppose the Vietnam War.

Some major noncommercial rock events since then:

- **August 1971**: Beatles star George Harrison stages a concert for Bangladesh in New York. The event raises millions of dollars for flood and famine victims in the south Asian state.
- **1984-85**: An Irish rock musician, Bob Geldof, organizes a grouping of stars under the name of Band Aid to raise money for famine victims in Ethiopia. After producing a hit record, they go on to organize twin "Live Aid" concerts in London and New York the following year.
- **June 1988**: Free Nelson Mandela concert held in London's Wembley Stadium to mark the 70th birthday of then imprisoned antiapartheid activist. Watched by some 600 million people in 60 countries.
- **September 1988**: Amnesty International stages 19 concerts around the world to mark the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- **Sept 21, 2001**: A series of "Tribute to Heroes" concerts across the United States raises some $150 million for victims of the attacks on New York and Washington that took place 10 days earlier.
- **November 2003**: As part of a campaign to combat the worldwide health threat posed by HIV/AIDS, former South African President Nelson Mandela puts on a massive concert in Cape Town.
- **July 2005**: Some 1.5 million people around the world attend 10 concerts organized by Bob Geldof with the aim of pressuring the world's richest countries, which are holding a summit at the time, to provide more aid for Africa. Unlike previous such concerts, the "Live 8" events are free of charge.
- **July 7, 2007**: Live Earth events are staged around the world to raise awareness of climate change and global warming.

AFP

Also planned are more than 6,000 parties in 119 countries—ranging from home viewing to museum festivals. The concerts will be broadcast in the United States on NBC, Telemundo, the Sundance Channel, Bravo, MSNBC and Universal HD. They will also be broadcast online at LiveEarth.MSN.com and on XM satellite radio.

Live Earth has been organized mindful of lessons learned from Live 8, which was planned just weeks in advance by Bob Geldof to rally support for Africa. Envisioned as a sequel to 1985's Live Aid (which benefited famine victims in Ethiopia), Live 8 did not charge for tickets and generally kept to a vague message urging help for Africa.

The underlying point of Live 8 was to pressure world leaders who days later met for that year's G8 Summit in Scotland. Some success could be claimed: The G8 nations committed to increasing aid to Africa from $25 billion annually to $50 billion (euro36.8 billion) by 2010. The leaders also endorsed a deal to cancel the debt of 18 of the world's poorest nations.

Since then, Geldof has created the website www.thedatareport.org to audit how faithfully the G8 nations keep to their promises.

Advice from pioneers

Though Africa has now largely ceded ground to global warming as the dominant cause celebre, many of those involved with Live 8 still grind away. Bono, U2 front man and outspoken advocate of aid for Africa, recently guest edited an issue of Vanity Fair devoted to Africa.

GORE: Going to be the greenest event of its kind, ever.

On the largely dormant Live 8 website, Bono is quoted: "Live 8 was and remains a brilliant moment but what is more important is the brilliant movement of which it was a part."

This time around, Gore says they are making particular efforts to sustain any momentum gained by Live Earth.

"We've listened to the advice of Bob Geldof and others who have been such great pioneers, and we've taken their advice in designing this event as not the end in itself, but the beginning of a three- to five-year campaign," Gore said.

But Geldof has been critical of Live Earth. In May, he told a Dutch newspaper: "Live Earth doesn't have a final goal."

7 Point Pledge

"I would only organize this if I could go on stage and announce concrete environmental measures from the American presidential candidates, Congress or major corporations," Geldof said.

At a news conference last week, Gore and Wall mapped out some of their goals for Live Earth. They unveiled a "7 Point Pledge" that concertgoers will be asked to sign. Those who sign it promise to pressure their country to sign treaties to cut global warming pollution, personally reduce carbon dioxide pollution, and plant trees, among other things.

Part of the thrust of Live Earth is to communicate what consumers can do to minimize their impact on the environment.

"The problem with it, is that it's a very complicated issue," Wall said. "When you think about yourself recycling a piece of paper, how does that connect to an iceberg in the North Pole?"

Green integrity

Wall and Gore have also taken measures to maintain the concert's green integrity by enlisting the support of the US Green Building Council and John Picard, a former member of President Bill Clinton's Green White House task force. Live Earth is intended to be an eco-friendly event with power supplied from renewable energy sources and ground travel from hybrid or high-efficiency vehicles where possible.

"This is going to be the greenest event of its kind, ever," Gore said. "The carbon offsets and the innovative practices that are being used to make this a green event, I think will set the standard for years to come."

While the former vice president has repeatedly said he would not run for president next year, he said it was a "main goal" of Live Earth to make climate change an important factor in the election next November and beyond.

"We're prepared to carry this on for three to five years," Gore said. "I'm optimistic that we'll reach the goal before then." *AP*

RP ranks 17th among 191 nations in UN's survey on e-governance

From page A1

The DFA said a panel at the 7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government at the UN headquarters in Vienna on June 28 cited the partnership between the Philippine government and the private sector to monitor polluters through the Bantay-Usok and Bantay-Kalikasan programs as a model of how technology was enabling citizens to actively take part in governance.

It said this affirmed the "UN Global E-Government Readiness Report: From E-government to E-inclusion," which named the Philippines as one of the 25 countries employing technology or e-government tools to the fullest. The report was published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2006.

In the UN E-Governance Survey, the Philippines tied with Austria for 17th place among 191 countries using a web-measure index that assessed the quality of government websites and the level of utilization of information and communications technology (ICT) tools in government, either to provide information or establish Internet-based interactive and transactional services.

At the top of the survey were the United States, United Kingdom, Singapore, Republic of Korea and Denmark.

E-government readiness

The Philippines also ranked fourth in e-government readiness among countries in Asia, next only to Singapore, Republic of Korea and Japan.

In the general survey of e-government readiness, the Philippines ranked 41st among 179 countries.

The UN defines e-readiness as a national government's capacity and willingness to use e-government for ICT-led development.

In the context of the survey, e-readiness refers to the given resources of Philippine government organizations as well as the investments they are willing to make in order to engage in e-government.

The same UN survey also said the Philippines' integrated portal www.gov.ph was "on a par with the best of the world."

E-participation index

The survey said the portal was one of the few national sites in the world offering a wireless access alternative for users, either through Short Message Service, Wireless Application Protocol (WAP), or a Pocket PC section.

The Philippines was also ranked 15th in the e-participation index, among countries providing "access and opportunity to the citizen through the development of participatory initiatives via ICT."

The index assessed the relevance and usefulness of the e-participation features of government websites worldwide, and how well they were being deployed for "promoting participatory decision-making."

The top 10 countries, according to this index, were the UK, US, Singapore, Canada, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Denmark, Mexico, Australia and the Netherlands.

The UN survey stressed the need for the Philippines to continue to further improve the level of telecommunications infrastructure to fully implement e-governance, the DFA said.

Room for improvement

Local experts said improving telecom infrastructures and efforts to promote connectivity had somewhat boosted IT-enabled industries and services.

But they also said there was a lot of room for improvement.

Business Processing Association of the Philippines CEO Oscar Sañez credited the country's top three telcos—Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Globe Telecommunications Co. (and wireless unit Innove) and Bayan Telecommunications (Bayan) for improving the telecom and Internet infrastructure.

"On the commercial side, affordable broadband Internet was really crucial to our e-readiness because it enabled such things as Internet literacy, IT-enabled business, and offshoring," Sañez said.

"On the industry side, demand for voice-over Internet offerings, primarily pushed by outsourcing firms, made it cheaper and more available for everyone. On the government's side, there is some infrastructure and education effort, but we need more in order to improve," he said, adding:

"If we want to have more quality graduates that can serve our growing IT needs, we need to increase PC penetration in high schools and elementary schools, and we need to educate our students on the use of the Internet."

Good prospects

Separately, executives of local telcos said the Philippines had good prospects for improved ICT infrastructure and capacity.

PLDT Corporate Business Group head Eric R. Alberto and Innove CEO Gil Genio said at the recent Cebu ICT 2007 conference that two new undersea cable links would be completed early in 2009.

"When the additional networks are in place, the aggregate capacity for [Internet]-based services will be five times the current one," Genio said.

Globe is spending P9 billion for the trans-Pacific cable system that will link Asia directly to the United States. PLDT is investing $100 million in a separate system.

Alberto also said the Philippines was increasingly becoming an alternative ICT hub for outsourcing business next to India. He said it would take a "confluence of efforts" from the government, academe and private sector to boost the country's IT-enabled industries, such as business process outsourcing.

Bayan executive consultant Tunde Fafunwa, meanwhile, said the private sector should take "a pragmatic approach" and undertake infrastructure improvements on its own.

"[Let us] be realistic about the government's role. We can't afford to wait. We must take charge," Fafunwa said.

But in order to sustain the Philippines' improved e-readiness, the government must lead the way with a road map, said Janette Torral, former executive director of the E-commerce Congressional Oversight Committee.

Torral said that "for improvement to continue," the Commission on Information and Communications Technology and National Telecommunications Commission should "put together the long-delayed Government Information Systems Technology (GIST) plan."

More Sports stories on A21 to 24

JONES CUP

Another heartbreaker for RP 5

Japan pounces on Nationals' meltdown, scores down-the-wire victory

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

TAIPEI—LIGHTNING STRUCK THE San Miguel-Pilipinas national quintet a second time last night in the 29th William Jones Cup International basketball tournament here.

A day after losing to Lebanon on a buzzer-beating shot, the Nationals suffered another meltdown in an 86-84 loss to unfancied Japan Wednesday.

A fastbreak layup by Yusuke Okada with a second left following a Japan interception of a Dondon Hontiveros pass doomed the Filipinos, who led by 12 points twice, the last at 68-56 late in the third quarter.

"*Natataranta* (they still get rattled)," said national coach Chot Reyes. "I don't know why we can't execute and close out the game."

"We played very well in the first 39 minutes. Unfortunately, this is a 40-minute game. It's my fault because I should be able to get good shots for my players."

Ironically, it was Hontiveros who also figured in the decisive play that led to the RP downfall a night earlier.

Against Lebanon, Dondon opted to go for a wide-open shot early instead of running out the clock some more.

After he missed, Lebanon came up with a desperation three-pointer from Roy Fahed at the buzzer to win, 65-62.

Inspired by their great escape, the Lebanese seized the early solo lead by thumping Kazakhstan, 90-77, for their third straight victory.

Qatar somehow eased RP's worry about the strength of Iran by nipping the 2006 Asian Games bronze medalist, 74-72.

The Iranians, bracketed with the Filipinos in the Fiba Asia championship along with Jordan and defending champion China, absorbed a second loss in three games.

Now also at 1-2 are Qatar, the Philippines, Japan and Kazkhstan.

The unexpected RP collapse ruined a sizzling offensive show off the bench by Renren Ritualo.

Ritualo, benched in RP's opening win against the US and rested against Lebnon, finished with seven triples for 21 points to help RP assume its first 12-point lead at 43-31.

Then a 10-2 run capped by Gabe Norwood's triple restored the margin at 68-56 in the third period, but the Japanese just wouldn't go away.

Shohei Kikuchi, a southpaw deadshot who led all scorers with 27 points, scored on drive then added a three-pointer as Japan tied it at 84-84 with eight seconds left.

After an RP timeout, Hontiveros received the throw-in but the Jpanese defense anticipated his pass to JJ Helterbrand and then struck with the winning basket.

The Japanese used only six men and fielded another man only when Yosuk Machida fouled out. Reyes, on the other hand, rested Mick Pennisi, saying he found no need for him in the match.

The Filipinos, who are using this event as a buildup for the Fiba Asia championship, next play the Koreans at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

The scores:

JAPAN 86—Kikuchi 27, Onishi 23, Okada18, Machida 12, Ishezaki 4, Inoue 2, Shonaka 0.

RP 84—Ritualo 21, Hontiveros 11, Helterbrand 10, Williams 8, Taulava 8, Raymundo 8, Yap 5, Norwood 5, Caguioa 5, Alapag 2, Menk 1.

Quarters: 25-25, 44-50, 60-71, 86-84

GABE Norwood attempts a basket while teammate Erik Menk (second from left) positions for a possible rebound in the game against Lebanon, which the Filipinos also lost in the dying seconds of the game.

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Tracking device find

Cops trace stolen SUV, accessories to QC house

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A STOLEN MITSUBISHI PAJERO equipped with a global positioning satellite (GPS) tracking device led policemen to a house in Quezon City yesterday where they found not only the vehicle but five others which could have also been taken from its rightful owners.

Arrested in the pre-dawn raid conducted by members of the Quezon City Police Station 6 and the Anti-Carnapping Unit at Mark St., Filinvest II in Batasan Hills were Gilbert Sablan, a driver from Barangay Commonwealth; Leonardo Tablante and his wife, Christine.

The three are believed to be members of what the police said was the Tablante group, the biggest and most active car theft syndicate operating in Quezon City.

The police identified its alleged leader as car exchange dealer and bar owner Rico Tablante. Rico, the brother of Leonardo, was able to escape arrest. Senior Supt. Mag-

TRACKING/ A18

A POLICEMAN inspects car accessories, including a sports utility vehicle—all believed to be stolen—found inside a house in Batasan Hills, Quezon City

RAFFY LERMA

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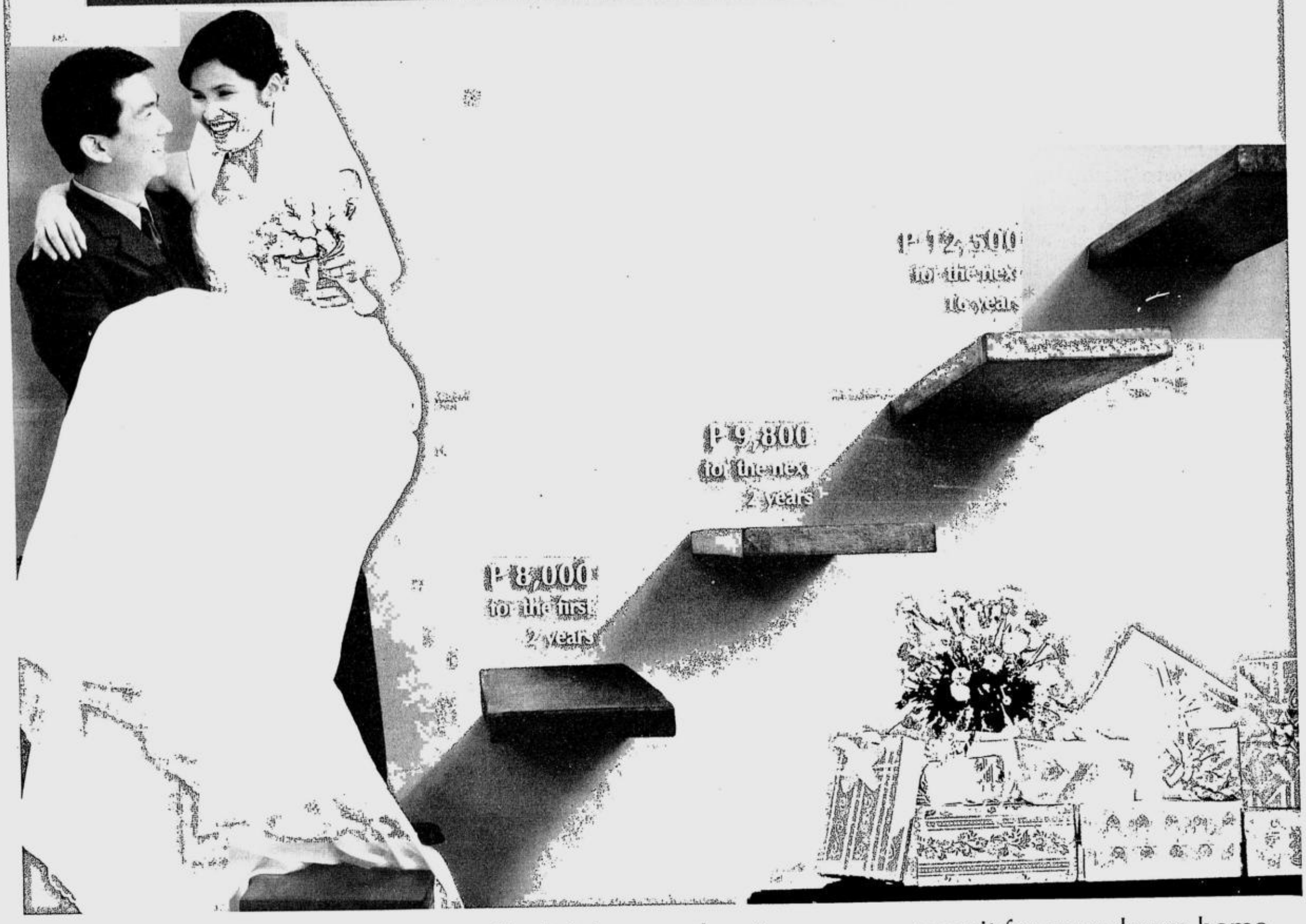

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3 killed in Quezon City condo fire

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THREE PERSONS WERE KILLED BEFORE dawn yesterday in a fire that gutted one of the units in a six-story condominium in Cubao, Quezon City.

Firefighters later found the bodies of used clothing trader Ray John Dungala, 23; his employee Irene Ribon, 21 and Kevin Duque, 23; when they entered Unit 204 of the Minnesota Mansion at 267 Ermin Garcia Street, Barangay Silangan.

Dungala's wife, Pamela, and their nine-month-old child survived the blaze as firemen from the Cubao Fire Station were able to put out the fire before it could reach the master's bedroom where the two were sleeping. They were treated for smoke inhalation problems but have been declared out of danger.

Chief Insp. Oscar Villegas, Quezon City fire marshal, told the INQUIRER that the fire began in the living room at around 2 a.m. where two of the bodies were found. Ribon's body was found by the door while Dungala was found in a chair. Firemen found Duque inside the guest room.

Villegas said that there was a possibility that the blaze, which was put out at 3:20 p.m., was caused by an appliance that had short-circuited. He added that they have yet to identify which of the appliances had malfunctioned.

Villegas said they were also looking into reports that the sprinkler system of the condominium, located in the hallways, was not working.

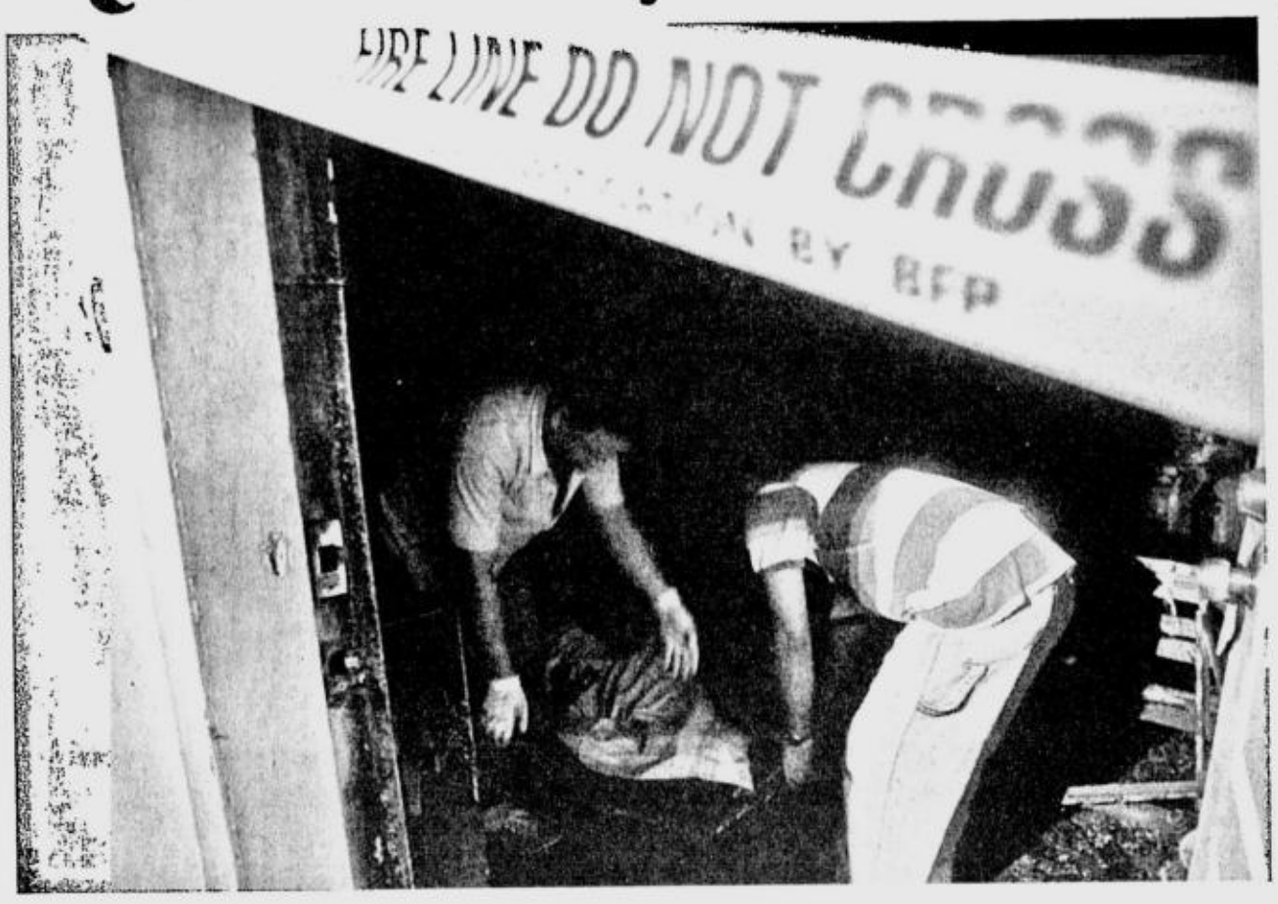
PO2 Joseph Dino of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, who is conducting a parallel probe of the incident, said that Pamela told him that there was an electric fan and a cellular phone charger owned by Ribon that were no longer working.

Pamela added that she woke up after she heard her husband's pleas for help coming from the living room. But she was unable to help him because when she opened the door, it was too dark because the lights had gone out and the room was filled with thick smoke. She added that she decided to lock herself with her child inside the toilet of their bedroom until they were rescued by firefighters.

Investigators said the unit that burned down was registered to Nelly Dinglo of Baguio City, while the Minnesota Mansion is owned by Wilson Genato.

It will be recalled that the Manor Hotel on Kamias Street in the city, which was gutted by fire in August 2001, leaving 74 people dead, was owned by a William Genato. Villegas, however, said that he did not know if the two men were related.

City Engineer Joselito Cabungcal said their initial investigation showed that the owner of the condominium did not have a fire inspection certificate for his building, a prerequisite before an occupancy permit is granted.



ONE of three bodies discovered at the Minnesota Mansions in Cubao, Quezon City, after an early morning fire yesterday. RAFFY LERMA

LTO official faces dismissal from service

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN YESterday ordered the dismissal from government service of the Land Transportation Office chief in Parañaque City for making the manager of an insurance agency her "milking cow."

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez gave the order after she found Fortunata Estrella guilty of collecting a commission for every vehicle registered in her office from an insurance firm.

Under the law, owners of vehicles to be registered with the LTO should first present a certificate of insurance coverage for compulsory third party liability.

Sharon Grace Arteche, branch manager of Solid Ramp Insurance and Reinsurance Brokers Inc., earlier accused Estrella of ordering the agency's insurance secretaries to remit P50 to her (Estrella's) office for every client they were able to insure.

In her complaint filed at the antigraft court, Arteche said the LTO official also demanded that 30 percent of the insurance payment go to the "stencil boys" or those who took the the engine and chassis numbers of each vehicle up for registration at her office.

One of the insurance secretaries, Mary Jane Medilo, said in her affidavit that when they refused to give in to Estrella's order sometime in July 2004, they were harassed by the stencil boys, who were non-LTO employees.

According to her, the stencil boys intercepted potential clients and brought them to another insurance agency whose owners complied with Estrella's demands.

Although the LTO official denied the allegations against her, the Ombudsman found her "bare" denial unconvincing.

"Estrella's act of turning the complainant into a milking cow is despicable—a blatant circumvention of the law ... indeed, the respondent had conducted herself in an unlawful manner so unbecoming of a public servant," said Gutierrez, who also ordered the filing of graft charges against the accused.

METROBRIEFS

Labor employee falls to death

AN EMPLOYEE of the Department of Labor and Employment died after he fell from the 8th floor of a building in Intramuros, Manila yesterday afternoon. Police authorities identified the victim as Jay Walter Ocampo, 31, administrative assistant IV of the Bureau of Labor Relations and a resident of Parañaque City. The victim suffered multiple injuries, according to police. Investigation showed that the incident happened at around 2 p.m. on the roof of BF Condominium on Aduana Street, Intramuros. Chief Insp. Alex Yanquiling, Manila Police District homicide division chief, said that prior to the incident, the victim, reportedly a graduate of De La Salle University, told his superior that he would just withdraw money from an Automated Teller Machine downstairs. But from his office on the sixth floor, he went up to the eighth floor, police said. Yanquiling said the victim had marks on the neck, which could be a sign that he initially planned to commit suicide by hanging himself. "We also found a nylon cord in the area. We suspect he tried to tie it to a flower box but the cord broke and so he fell," Yanquiling added. A co-worker of the victim, who requested anonymity, claimed that Ocampo once admitted to her that he was suffering from anxiety attacks. "He (Ocampo) said he had already stopped taking his medicines and he was suffering from depression. Police said that they would conduct further investigation to determine if there was foul play.

Tina G. Santos

J. Fernandez burial on July 7

THE REMAINS of political activist Jess Fernandez, who died on May 26 from multiple-organ failure resulting from lung cancer, will be interred on July 7 at The Columbary, St. Agustin Seminary Compound on Fisheries St., Visayas Avenue, Quezon City after the funeral ceremony at 4 p.m. He was cremated on May 31. The date of the interment is not incidental—it marks the anniversary of the founding of the Katipunan in 1892. Niva Gonzales, Fernandez's widow, said her husband had a high esteem for the Katipunan. Fernandez was a political activist for more than 30 years and was known by his aliases FF, Tembong, Nol, Les and Oying, among others. When he joined the mainstream, Fernandez continued to work for social change as political adviser to then Pangasinan Gov. Oscar Orbos and Sen. Gregorio Honasan. He was also among those who urged the late actor, Fernando Poe Jr., to run for president in 2004. Testimonials will be given at the interment by people who worked closely with Fernandez like Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Honasan, Orbos, Bayan Muna General Counsel Neri Colmenares, Manjette Lopez and his fraternity brothers in the Alpha Sigma Fraternity at the University of the Philippines. Fernandez is survived by his wife Niva Gonzales, children ND (Nicholas Dominador) and Chachic (Hazel Inessa), father Dominador, siblings Lourdes, Elizabeth, Percival, Elmer and Arthur, nephews, nieces and in-laws.

What are 'hot jobs' in Metro Manila?

By Jerome Aning

DESPITE THE BIG NUMBER OF PERsons looking for jobs, large firms in Metro Manila found it difficult in the last three years to fill up positions ranging from accountants and engineers to welders, drivers and skilled laborers because of the lack of qualified applicants.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said the findings were the result of a survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES).

He added that the BLES survey also identified the "hot jobs" in the talent shortage list in Metro Manila, revealing the kind of skills required. "Hot jobs" refer to those high in demand and hard-to-fill due to the shortage of qualified applicants. The survey covered 448 large companies in Metro Manila, drawn from the list of the country's top 5,000 enterprises. Data collection was made from January to March.

The top 10 occupations in the talent shortage list were jobs for accountant, computer programmer, engineer, financial analyst, human resources development manager, information technology technician, lawyer, manager, nurse, and sales/marketing representative.

Other "hot jobs":

- Mining and quarrying (geologist and mining engineer)
- Manufacturing (assembler, autocad designer, engineer, machinist, welder, safety officer)
- Electricity, gas, and water (electrical engineer, lineman, plant operator)
- Construction (engineer, fitter, plumber, skilled laborer, TIG pipe/place welder, tinsmith)
- Wholesale, retail (administrative assistant, artist, baking technician, pharmacist, sales clothing technician)
- Hotels, restaurants (HR manager, restaurant manager)
- Transport, storage, communications (account manager, mechanics, IT specialist)
- Financial intermediation (actuarian, auditor, bookkeeper, programmer, underwriter)
- Real estate, renting, business services (architect, engineer, environmental scientist, trainer)
- Education (clinical instructor)
- Health, social work (medical technician, nurse, technician, respiratory therapist)

DID YOU KNOW

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas was established on July 3, 1993 by virtue of the New Central Bank Act of 1993. It replaced the Central Bank of the Philippines as the country's central monetary authority. The 1993 law gave the BSP fiscal and administrative autonomy from the national government.

Among the objectives of BSP are to maintain price stability and supervise bank operations. It also has the exclusive power to issue the national currency. Its central office is in Malate, Manila.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Free Trillanes? You must be kidding

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

EIGHT SENATORS REPORTEDLY support the proposal granting bail to Senator-elect Antonio Trillanes IV so he can attend Senate sessions.

Trillanes is being held at a brig (jail) inside the Marine compound in Fort Bonifacio on coup d'etat and other charges. The offenses are nonbailable.

The Old Boys Club is at work again!

Trillanes was one of the leaders and masterminds of the Oakwood Mutiny in 2002, and the eight senators want him out on bail while his followers are in jail for the same offenses.

Where's your sense of justice, Gentlemen?

* * *

You want to know Trillanes' true colors? Read on.

While being detained at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) jail in Camp Aguinaldo, Trillanes and his fellow Magdalo mutineers were allegedly given VIP treatment.

Their privileges included: (1) being allowed to play badminton at the Isafp gym with players from outside brought in for them, (2) being allowed to have cellular phones inside their cells, (3) being allowed to have desktop computers, microwave ovens and refrigerators, (4) being allowed to have occasional passes to visit their families.

But still, they reportedly wanted more privileges.

Trillanes was one of the most arrogant of the Magdalo detainees, according to Isafp records handed to me by an inside source.

On Jan. 1, 2006, Trillanes allegedly berated a guard who was following orders to limit the duration of the visits of lawyers and families of the detainees as the camp was on "blue alert."

Navy YNC Mariano Rapanot became a victim of Trillanes' alleged abusive and arrogant behavior.

Rapanot wouldn't allow an Attorney Guevarra and the family of Navy Lieutenant Layug entry into the detainees' cells as it was past visiting time.

Trillanes, according to the report, came out of his detention cell and berated Rapanot.

"P*** i**! *Sino ba'ng* chief of staff ninyo? *Sabihin mo sa kanya na p***** i** niya! Babalikan ko siya!*

(S@#$^%! Who's your chief of staff? Tell him, @#$!%&%! I will get back at him).

Note the last words: "*Babalikan ko siya* (I will get back at him).

This was on Jan. 1, 2006. Trillanes sounded prophetic.

Now, if Trillanes could be so arrogant and abusive while in jail, watch how he'll behave when he's at the Senate session hall.

* * *

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, one of the brightest members of the Senate, opposes giving Trillanes special treatment just because he's a senator.

Santiago says his case is comparable to that of former Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos.

Jalosjos was elected twice while serving sentence for statutory rape and acts of lasciviousness, but was never allowed to go out and attend sessions at the House of Representatives.

Maid Miriam is right: What's the difference between Jalosjos and Trillanes?

* * *

If 11 million people who voted for Trillanes want him to represent them in the Senate, then they should ask the Supreme Court to order the lower courts to expedite the hearing of the coup charges against him and his coaccused.

Only after he gets acquitted—if he gets acquitted—should he be set free along with his co-ccused.

Freeing Trillanes on bail while his coaccused are in jail smacks of elitism.

* * *

Some months ago, I wrote an item in this space about the plight of Arturo Piloteo, a 94-year-old retired schoolteacher who was allegedly given the runaround at the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) while trying to collect his pension.

Every time he went to the GSIS, they told him to go to the Union Bank to collect from an ATM machine assigned to him. And every time he went to the Union Bank, they told him there was no deposit yet from the GSIS.

Anyway, Piloteo just died. He got only one pension after my item last March.

Tracking device find; cops trace stolen SUV

From page A17

tanggol Gatdula, QCPD chief, told reporters that the group could be behind most of the car theft incidents in the city.

Gatdula said his men stumbled into the group's alleged lair while they were looking for a missing black Mitsubishi Pajero with license plate APL 313. The vehicle is owned by Atoy Laynes, who, according to the police, is the nephew of Philippine National Police deputy director for operations, Chief Supt. Luisito Palmera.

Laynes said his Pajero was stolen at around 9 p.m. Tuesday on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

Unknown to the suspects, the vehicle was equipped with a GPS tracking device which alerts the owner if the car is being stolen. It also sends out a signal allowing the owner to trace its whereabouts.

The police tracked down the signal to the house in Batasan Hills at around 1 a.m. yesterday and found a black Pajero inside the garage, but with a different license plate—XHX 735.

The police, however, were able to start the car and reactivate the tracking device using the keys provided by Laynes, proving that it was the stolen Pajero. Palmera later positively identified the vehicle at the QCPD headquarters in Camp Karingal, Quezon City, as the vehicle he used to own.

Found along with the Pajero were five vehicles: A maroon Chrysler van, a Toyota Hi-Lux, a blue Volkswagen, a Mitsubishi van and a Toyota Lite Ace. There were also assorted hub caps, tires, spare parts, registration stickers, various gadgets, and several official receipts (OR) as well as certificates of registration (CR).

Gatdula said the Tablante Group first came to their attention two years ago when they arrested a car theft suspect. It was Rico Tablante who allegedly bailed out the suspect.

IN THE KNOW

THE GLOBAL Positioning System (GPS) is used as a navigation and positioning tool in airplanes, boats, cars and even in some outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, fishing and kayaking. It is also use for weather forecasting, for the conduct of studies on global climate and to measure tectonic motions during and in between earthquakes.

The system is made up of 20 satellites orbiting 20,000 km above the Earth. The satellites are divided into groups of four to make sure that they can be detected from anywhere on the Earth's surface. They send radio signals to Earth that contain information. Using GPS ground-based receivers, these signals can be detected and used to determine the receivers' positions (latitude, longitude and height).

The GPS was developed in 1973 by the US defense department to assist soldiers and military vehicles in accurately determining their locations worldwide.

Chona Galang, Inquirer Research

37 nabbed for cutting up barge in Navotas City

By Nancy Carvajal

THIRTY-SEVEN PEOPLE WERE arrested as they were cutting into pieces a 500-ton stolen cargo barge at a dockyard in Navotas City yesterday, the police said.

Supt. Eric Reyes, Navotas police chief, said the suspects were apprehended on board the EE Eldrige barge owned by Hai Long Shipbuilding and Lightrage Corp. during a raid on the Double 9 Shipyard located at 99 Compound, Barangay San Jose.

Reyes identified the dockyard operator as Ricky Caparas Cortes.

According to the police official, the barge was reported missing by Hai Long president Ernesto Ong Lopez on June 29 at around 10:30 p.m. while it was docked at the Cargolift Terminal in Baseco, Tondo, Manila.

Reyes added that they were looking into the possible involvement of Raquel Villossilo, an employee of Hai Long, and Domingo Ang who allegedly posed as the owner of the stolen barge and hired the workers to take it apart.

"We included them in the charge sheet and we are now looking for them so they could give their side on the incident," he said.

Rail strikes spread in Germany

BERLIN—GERMAN RAIL WORKers extended strikes over pay on Tuesday, causing what operator Deutsche Bahn described as massive disruptions for millions of morning commuters, and unions vowed more action on Wednesday.

The GDL union representing train drivers joined protests by two other unions that started on Monday, halting passenger and freight traffic in a rare stoppage for Germany's rail network.

The strikes hit the capital Berlin and Hamburg, Germany's second-largest city, and lasted four hours in most-affected places. Local rail lines were worst hit but there were also delays on inter-city and international rail traffic.

Roads leading into Berlin were jammed with cars, and bike lanes through Germany's biggest city were clogged with cyclists.

The GDL said it would not mount any further strikes until Thursday but the Transnet and GDBA unions said they would stage action on Wednesday in places including the western state of Hesse, the northern city of Stralsund and in the Halle area.

The strikes would affect both passenger and goods traffic, the unions said.

"We are ready for talks that serve to prevent any further escalation of the wage conflict," Transnet chair Norbert Hansen said in a statement.

Deutsche Bahn said it did not expect Wednesday's planned action to cause significant disruption.

Talks planned for Thursday between top union officials and Deutsche Bahn had been brought forward to Wednesday, a Transnet spokesperson said. *Reuters*

VANISHING LAKE
A photograph taken by the Chilean Navy shows an unnamed lake in southern Chile that suddenly drained a few weeks ago but is now beginning to fill up again. A scientific team discovered that the lake had mysteriously disappeared, believed to have drained towards the Pacific Ocean when a breach appeared in one of its natural containing walls, but it began to fill up again as winter sets in and the glaciers' edges have frozen solid. REUTERS

US, Russia begin nuke talks

Strategic weapons accord to expire in '09

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States and Russia on Tuesday pushed for peaceful nuclear energy use and said they had begun talks to trim their nuclear arsenals "to the lowest possible level" ahead of the expiry of a landmark strategic weapons agreement.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which led to the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive weapons under the largest arms control accord in history, expires in 2009.

"The United States and Russia reiterate their intention to carry out strategic offensive reductions to the lowest possible level consistent with their national security requirements and alliance commitments," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov said in a joint statement issued in Washington on Tuesday.

"To this end, ministers discussed development of a post-START arrangement to provide continuity and predictability regarding strategic offensive forces," they said, a day after US President George W. Bush and Russian leader Vladimir Putin held summit talks.

Rice and Lavrov had met on the sidelines of the summit at the US leader's parents' vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

On the instructions of their leaders, Rice and Lavrov said Moscow and Washington would continue these discussions "with a view toward early results" on the reduction of their nuclear arsenals.

Bush and Putin in May 2002 signed the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions, limiting the two powers to a strategic nuclear arsenal of 1,700 to 2,200 operationally deployed warheads each. It expires in 2012.

There are no immediate targets that have been set under the nuclear talks for any new agreement replacing START, officials said. *AFP*

Bush may pardon Libby

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush refused to rule out a pardon for former White House aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby on Tuesday, a day after sparing him from prison in a case that helped seal Bush's Iraq legacy and gave ammunition to Democrats.

Bush, who angered Democrats but reassured conservatives by saving Libby from serving a two years and a half-prison sentence, told reporters who asked about an eventual full pardon: "As to the future I rule nothing in and nothing out." Bush's elimination of Libby's prison sentence—while leaving intact a $250,000 fine and two-year probation—was seen in Washington as an act of loyalty by an unpopular president trying to repair ties with disaffected conservatives who had pressed him to keep Libby out of jail.

There were comparisons to pardons issued by his father, President George H.W. Bush, in 1992 to key figures in the Iran-contra scandal—former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and State Department official Elliott Abrams.

The decision was also likened to President Bill Clinton's 11th-hour pardon in 2001 of financier Marc Rich from tax-evasion charges.

Libby was saved from a jail term for his conviction in March on charges of lying and obstruction of justice in an investigation into who leaked the identity of a CIA officer, Valerie Plame. Plame's husband, former Ambassador Joe Wilson, questioned evidence used to justify the Iraq war.

"It closes one chapter of the sort of life-draining issue of George W. Bush and Iraq," said presidential historian Stephen Hess. "It's totally in keeping with everything he's done up to now, including his sense of loyalty to his people." *Reuters*

Scientist tests DNA on hubby's underwear for signs of cheating

LANSING—A MICHIGAN FORENSICS scientist who said she tested DNA in her husband's underwear to find out whether he was cheating could be disciplined if investigators determine she violated the use of state equipment.

Ann Chamberlain-Gordon testified in a March 7 divorce hearing that she ran the test in September on the underwear of Charles Gordon Jr. Asked by his attorney what she found, she answered: "Another female. It wasn't me."

She also said during a May 25 hearing in Ingham County Family Court that she ran the test on her own time with chemicals that were set to be thrown away.

Michigan State Police, which oversees the Lansing forensics lab where Chamberlain-Gordon works, started to investigate her after her husband's attorney wrote to authorities and media outlets questioning how many times DNA tests have been improperly run.

Investigators expect to decide by next week what they found. Her duties have not been restricted during the investigation, state police spokesperson Shanon Akans said on Tuesday.

"We don't know exactly what was or wasn't done," Akans said.

State police policies on the care and use of property say "department supplies, materials or equipment shall not be used for any non-duty or non-department purpose."

A request for comment was left on Tuesday with Chamberlain-Gordon.

Charles Gordon's attorney, Michael Maddaloni, said on Tuesday that his client disputed his wife's testimony that he acknowledged a sexual encounter with another woman after she found the female DNA on his underwear. *AP*

Napoleon letter to Josephine fetches $7.7M

LONDON—ONE OF THE WORLD'S greatest collections of historical letters, including an apologetic note written by Napoleon to his lover Josephine after a row, fetched 3.8 million pounds ($7.7 million) at auction on Tuesday.

The treasure trove of almost 1,000 documents, collected over 30 years by an Austrian banker, included letters written by Winston Churchill, Peter the Great, Alexander Pushkin, John Donne and Queen Elizabeth I.

The auction proceeds almost doubled pre-sale expectations.

One of the rarest and most touching items in the collection was a passionate letter written by an apologetic Napoleon to his wife-to-be, Josephine de Beauharnais, the morning after a furious argument.

The letter sold for 276,000 pounds, a record for a Napoleon letter and more than five times its pre-sale estimate of 30,000 to 50,000 pounds, auctioneers Christie's said.

"I send you three kisses—one on your heart, one on your mouth and one on your eyes," wrote the chastened lover in a spidery scrawl full of corrections and crossings out.

Napoleon was believed to have provoked the quarrel by inquiring about Josephine's wealth held in family estates in the West Indies.

The letters covered more than 500 years and ranged across art, science, literature and philosophy.

"To get a collection of letters like this nowadays is really a one off, it's almost unheard of," Thomas Venning, director in Christie's books department, told Reuters.

Owner Albin Schram, who died in 2005, had begun amassing the archive in the early 1970s.

Though an inveterate collector, Schram was not interested in conservation or display—the letters were kept in an old metal cabinet in the laundry room of his villa in Lausanne, Switzerland, ordered by size rather than author or date.

A manuscript in which English scientist Sir Isaac Newton discusses the theory of gravity and the structure of the universe, sold for 204,000 pounds compared with a pre-sale estimate of 30,000 to 50,000 pounds.

Another prized lot, a note by metaphysical poet John Donne to Lady Kingsmill a day after the death of her husband in October 1624, sold for 114,000 pounds, within the range estimated before the sale. *Reuters*

Potter-mania hits London as film debuts

LONDON—POTTER-MANIA DEscended on London's Leicester Square on Tuesday for the world premiere of the boy wizard's latest film adventure, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

Hundreds of fans, many of them from overseas, camped out early despite torrential rain to see author Joanne "J.K." Rowling and the star-studded cast of the film, packed into the square ahead of the evening red-carpet screening.

Soon the nervous wait was over as Daniel Radcliffe, the 17-year-old actor who plays Harry turned up with his co-stars Emma Watson (Hermione Granger) and Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley).

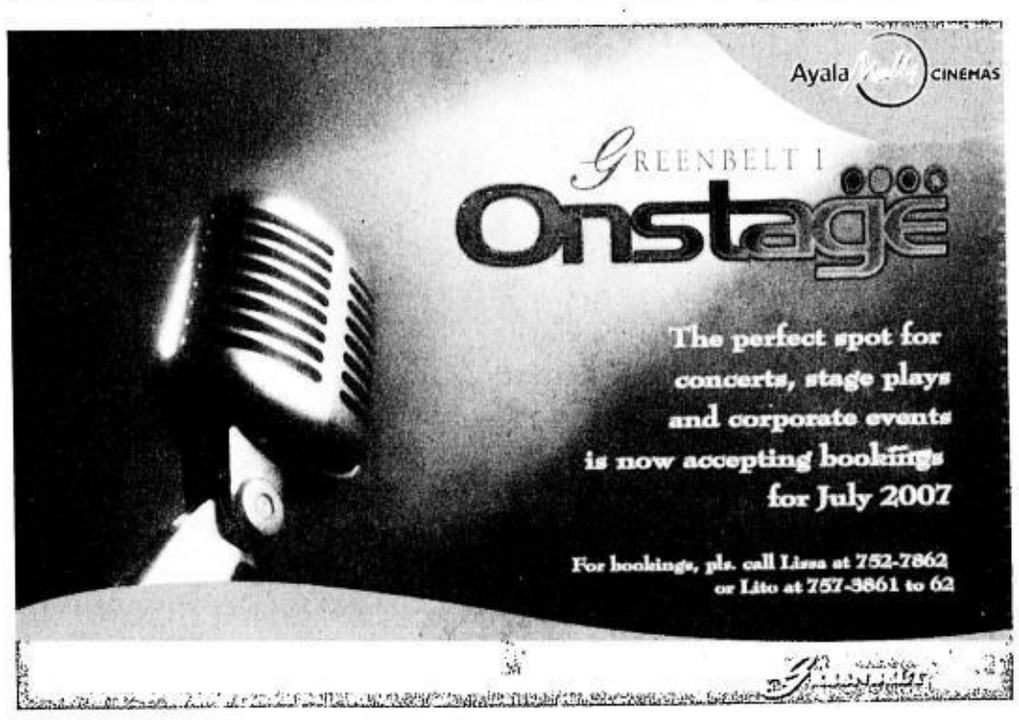
Radcliffe admitted that the new movie is darker than previous ones.

"Toward the end of the film ... there's not many laughs to be had," he admitted, while insisting that there were some lighter moments. "While there's not actually direct comedy, there's some really heartfelt emotion." "There's goodness in it," he said.

Watson, who like Radcliffe and Grint has become a global star—and likely a multi-millionaire—through the Potter brand, admitted she still gets excited at red-carpet screenings.

"Every time I come to a premiere, I see more and more fans. It gets bigger and bigger," the 17-year-old said, while adding of her character: "She's kind of changing, becoming more of a rebel. But it's kind of fun to play." In his fifth film outing, Potter experiences his first kiss with classmate Cho Chang, though his integrity is questioned when some in wizard circles question his tale of confrontation with the evil Lord Voldemort.

Radcliffe described the movie as the film he is most proud of, while Watson reckons it is the "most genuine" of the series. *AFP*



The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

BBC JOURNALIST Alan Johnston smiles following his release after nearly four months in captivity. AFP

British journalist released

GAZA CITY—BBC JOURNALIST Alan Johnston was freed in Gaza on Wednesday after 16 weeks held hostage by Palestinian extremists, looking pale and drawn but delighted that his "terrifying" ordeal was over.

The Briton, by far the longest-held Westerner in the radicalized and impoverished Gaza Strip, stepped into the outside world before daybreak clutched by Hamas officials and surrounded by men waving guns in the air.

"It's just the most fantastic thing, to be free," he told BBC television by telephone from the home of sacked Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniya in the Shatti refugee camp in Gaza City where he was taken after his release.

"I am hugely grateful to all the people, an amazing number of people, that worked on the Palestinian side, the British government, the BBC from top to bottom, and the huge amount of support from BBC listeners."

In a televised news conference with Hamas leaders, Johnston spoke of his harrowing ordeal in solitary confinement, where he was threatened with death, but thanked the Islamist movement, which seized control of the Gaza Strip in an armed takeover last month, for securing his release.

"They talked about killing me and torturing me," he told reporters after crossing into Israel. "They handcuffed me and put a hood and took me out in the middle of the night."

Wearing blue jeans, a blue shirt and a navy jacket, he appeared relaxed, and smiled and joked for the cameras, although his face was pale and he appeared to have lost considerable weight while being held by the extremist group The Army of Islam. *AFP*

Britain braces for anniversary of July 7 blasts

Security tightened across country

LONDON—A SENIOR BRITISH DETECTIVE headed for Australia on Wednesday to question one of eight suspects held over failed bombings in London and Glasgow, as Britain remained on maximum alert for a new al-Qaida attack.

A series of alerts have accentuated jitters since the attempted bombings as Britain braces for the anniversary of the July 7, 2005 suicide attacks in London which killed 52.

All suspects so far detained are doctors or medical staff with Middle Eastern links.

According to British press reports, several of the suspects were already on the files of domestic intelligence agency MI5 as "people who knew people" that were under observation.

"It appears that there are some linkages which refer to some of the individuals that have been detained," one source said, adding that this had helped "speed up some of the investigations."

At least six of the suspects are believed to be doctors, including a Jordanian neurosurgeon and an Iraqi doctor, with one being held in Australia after attempting to leave the country.

A British counterterrorism officer was set to arrive in Australia on Thursday to interrogate Mohammed Haneef, a 27-year-old Indian doctor who was arrested at Brisbane international airport on Monday.

It was not immediately clear if Britain would seek his extradition.

Australia's Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty said the next action would become clearer within 48 hours.

Asked if a decision on whether Haneef would face charges, be freed or be extradited to Britain would be made soon, Keelty replied: "By the end of the week, I think, is the timeframe that we would give."

Security has been tightened across Britain since two Mercedes cars packed with gas canisters and nails were found in London's entertainment district on Friday.

The following day a blazing Jeep Cherokee rammed into the front doors of Glasgow airport's main terminal, and hours later the national security level was raised to "critical," meaning another attack is expected "imminently." Police say the two attacks were linked and on Wednesday reports emerged that the two men who carried out the Glasgow attack may have been the drivers who abandoned the cars in London.

The first arrests in the investigation were made on Saturday after police apprehended the two men driving the fiery jeep in Glasgow, one of whom remains in critical condition in hospital. *AFP*

Evidence suggests terror suspects hatched plot in Britain

LONDON—THEY HAD DIVERSE backgrounds, coming from countries around the globe, but all shared youth and worked in medicine. They also had a common goal, authorities say: to bring terrorism to Britain.

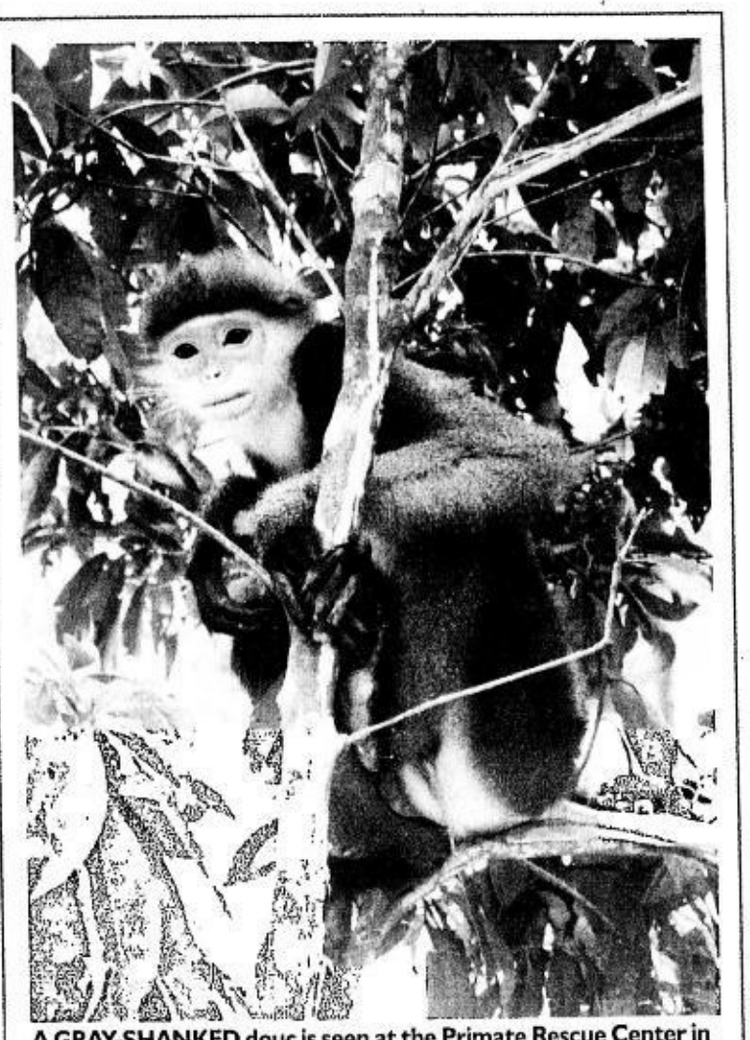
The eight suspects held on Tuesday in the failed car bombing plot include one doctor from Iraq and two from India. There is a doctor from Lebanon and a Jordanian doctor and his medical assistant wife. Another doctor and a medical student are thought to be from the Middle East.

All employees of Britain's National Health Service, some worked together as colleagues at hospitals in England and Scotland, and experts and officials say the evidence points to the plot being hatched after they met each other in the UK, rather than overseas.

"To think that these guys were a sleeper cell and somehow were able to plan this operation from the different places they were, and then orchestrate being hired by the NHS so they could get to the UK, then get jobs in the same area—I think that's a planning impossibility," said Bob Ayres, a former US intelligence officer now at London's international affairs think tank, Chatham House.

"A much more likely scenario is they were here together, they discovered that they shared some common ideology, and then they decided to act on this while here in the UK," he said.

No one has been charged in the plot in which two car bombs failed to explode in central London early Friday and in which two men rammed a Jeep Cherokee loaded with gas cylinders into the entrance of Glasgow International Airport and set it on fire Saturday. *AP*



A GRAY-SHANKED douc is seen at the Primate Rescue Center in Cuc Phuong National Park, 120 km south of Hanoi, in an undated photo provided by the World Wild Fund office in Hanoi. REUTERS

Endangered monkeys found in Vietnam

HANOI—A LARGE POPULATION of gray-shanked douc monkeys has been found in central Vietnam, raising hopes that the endangered species could be saved from extinction, wildlife scientists announced on Tuesday.

At least 116 animals were observed in recent surveys in the central province of Quang Nam, experts from the environmental group WWF and Conservation International (CI) said in a statement.

Scientists estimate a population of over 180 individuals, and many more may live in the surrounding forest as only a small part of the area was surveyed.

"To put into a human perspective, this discovery is like finding a new country with over one billion people in it," said CI biologist Ben Rawson.

"We now have a much greater opportunity to overcome the very serious threats faced by this species and prevent its disappearance from our planet," he said.

The grey-shanked douc, one of the world's 25 most endangered primates, has only been recorded in Vietnam's Quang Nam, Kon Tum, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh and Gia Lai provinces.

Fewer than 1,000 individuals are believed to still exist and, until now, only one other population with more than 100 animals was known, the scientists said.

"It's very rare to discover a population of this size with such high numbers in a small area, especially for a species on the brink of extinction," said Barney Long, a coordinator for the WWF in Vietnam.

"This indicates that the population has not been impacted by hunting like all other known populations of the species," he said. *AFP*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Czech teen ends Mauresmo reign /A24

A TALE OF TWO COACHES: Robert Jaworski (right) may be heading back to the PBA as Air21's coach. The great Baby Dalupan, on the other hand, finds his league record under siege by Alaska's Tim Cone (*Story below*). PDI PHOTO

Jaworski returning to PBA next season

PSC chairmanship stands in way of Air21 stint

By Musong R. Castillo

ROBERT JAWORSKI WILL BE MAKING HIS MUCH-ANTICIPATED return to the Philippine Basketball Association, the league he helped make great, in the next season.

That is, if a greater calling does not get in the way.

The 6-foot Living Legend, one of the finest all-around players this country has ever produced, has resumed talks with Air21 management about a coaching job after the contracts of Bo Perasol and his team were not renewed.

Sources said that management had actually talked to members of Perasol's staff and told them that only Perasol will remain with the Express for next year as he will be named Jaworski's chief deputy.

Air21 and the former Senator actually opened talks even before the ongoing PBA Fiesta Cup started, but no deal was sealed.

Now, it seems that the only thing standing in the way of Jaworski's return is the former senator's rumored appointment as William "Butch" Ramirez' replacement as chair of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Malacañang had also asked Ramirez and his commissioners to tender their resignations last week, and talk has been swirling around that Jaworski is being eyed for Ramirez' position.

Team manager Lito Alvarez did not return messages or answer phone calls of the INQUIRER.

"It is very clear that we don't have an explosive lineup like the other teams," Perasol told the INQUIRER over the phone. "And if a Jaworski is there (to coach), I'm sure the team will be fired up more and will perform even better.

"Plus of course, his name is good for our (Air21) brand name."

Perasol is also employed as the global operations head of FedEx, whose Philippine franchise is owned by Air21. He was responsible for the third-place finish of the team in the Fiesta Cup last year, franchise's best-ever PBA finish.

He said that he will have no problems sliding down to an assistant's position.

"I am not privy to the negotiations," Perasol said. "I don't know any of the details of their talks

JAWORSKI/ A23

Cone chases a legend's mark

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer
7:20 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk 'N Text

By Musong R. Castillo

THEIR SPORTS AND LEAGUES MAY be worlds apart, but like Tiger Woods in the US PGA, Alaska coach Tim Cone also has a legend to chase.

Cone sealed a 19th appearance in a Philippine Basketball Association title series Sunday night to earn the chance to nail down a 12th title and creep closer to the all-time record being held by the esteemed Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan.

"Yes, I've lost some of them (title series) and I've also won a few," Cone said after his Aces came from behind despite being a key player short to eliminate San Miguel, 4-2, in the best-of-seven semifinal series on Sunday.

"Frankly speaking, I have forgotten how this (making a Finals) feels like," the 50-year-old American added. "But this gives me a chance to again chase my idol, Baby (Dalupan) in the all-time race."

Game One of his best-of-seven showdown with Talk 'N Text and Derrick Pumaren is set at 7:20 p.m. tomorrow, and both have prepared themselves for a long grind.

Dalupan, referred to as "the Maestro," has 15 titles across his legendary name after winning championships with defunct teams Crispa Redmanizers and the Great Taste Coffee Makers, and with Purefoods in the early 1990s.

"I have been a fan of his since I came over (to the Philippines) when I was eight years old," Cone recounted. "I watched the Micaa (commercial league) and the early years of the PBA because of him.

"He was a genius at what he did."

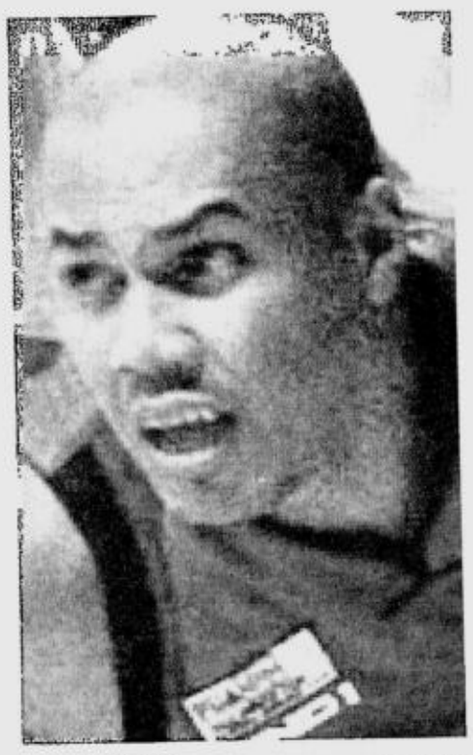
Cone will be appearing in only his first title series since losing the 2002 Governors Cup in six games to the Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdogs. And he admitted going through hell just to be able to get here.

"That's why we're not satisfied just making it here," he said Tuesday afternoon. "We will win (this title) because anything less than that will be consid-

CONE/ A23

CONE: Baby is my idol. PDI PHOTO

CARDONA: Captain Hook PDI PHOTO



MILLER: Tutor PDI PHOTO

Teacher-student matchup highlights 'Fiesta' finals

WILLIE MILLER REMEMBERS THE TIME when he used to show Mac Cardona the ropes when the former De La Salle University was still feeling his way around the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

"*Dati kasi sa* Talk 'N Text *kami 'yung nagbabantayan* (Before, when I was still with Talk 'N Text, we used to guard each other a lot [in practice])," said Miller. "*Ako yung* tutor *dati tapos siya 'yung sumusunod sa akin. Ako lagi yung nagsasabi sa kanya ng* plays *namin* (I used to be his tutor and he used to follow everything I tell him. I used to be the one to teach him the plays of the team)."

Several matchups departed from those good old days, Miller finally gets an up-close chance to size up just how far Cardona has gone from then.

As in, really close.

Miller and Cardona will put their mentor-student rapport in the archives of their minds as their respective teams head for a PBA Fiesta Cup title showdown that will have both players not just in the spotlight.

They will also be matched up against each other when Game 1 of the best-of-seven series kicks off tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

And here's adding to the intrigue: Aside from the title on the line, the two explosive guards are also in a private footrace for the Best Player of the Conference award.

Cardona leads that race for now—the Talk 'N Text swingman ranks first in statistical points, while the Alaska dual-role guard ranks fifth. But when voting comes, the award will boil down to the two players, who have done a good job of carrying their team this far.

That they're facing off in a title series now appeared improbable just a couple of seasons ago, when both of them still wore the same Phone Pals jersey and Miller took Cardona—then a PBA rookie—under his wings.

But a lot of things have taken place since that time.

Miller was shipped by the Phone Pals to the Aces in a mega-trade while Cardona readily blossomed into a certified league superstar on

TEACHER/ A23

Castro, Lanete, Devance show up for RP tryouts

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JASON CASTRO AND CHICO LANETE, two guards who have made a name for themselves in the amateur ranks, yesterday joined the tryouts for the national team that will see action in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

Their presence gave rise to speculations that they will skip this year's Philippine Basketball Association rookie draft to be able to play for flag and country.

Castro had earlier declared his intention to turn professional and join the August draft, but he seems to have made a turnaround in the light of an appeal made by national team bankroller Mikee Romero of Harbour Centre that the top amateurs, particularly Castro and University of Santo Tomas' Jojo Duncil, play for the country one more time before joining the PBA.

Also an intriguing presence in the tryouts was Fil-Am Joe Devance, who had been earlier tabbed as a lottery pick in the coming draft.

"I'm happy [Castro and Lanete] came over to join the tryout," said coach Junel Baculi, who conducted the tryouts at the Reyes gym with coaching staff members Louie Alas, Albert Tirona and Ryan Dy. "It's a good indication but I hope they are really decided to play for the country."

Though they have yet to formally announce their decision to stay for one more season in the PBL, Castro and Lanete are set to meet with Harbour Centre officials led by Romero, also the amateur basketball project director and Erick Arejola today.

The backcourt tandem played big roles when the Harbour-RP squad captured the Southeast Asian Basketball Association club championship last April in Jakarta.

Also showing up in the tryouts were Harbour Centre's Beau Belga and Ryan Araña and Burger King's Mike Bravo, Mike Dizon and Nestor David.

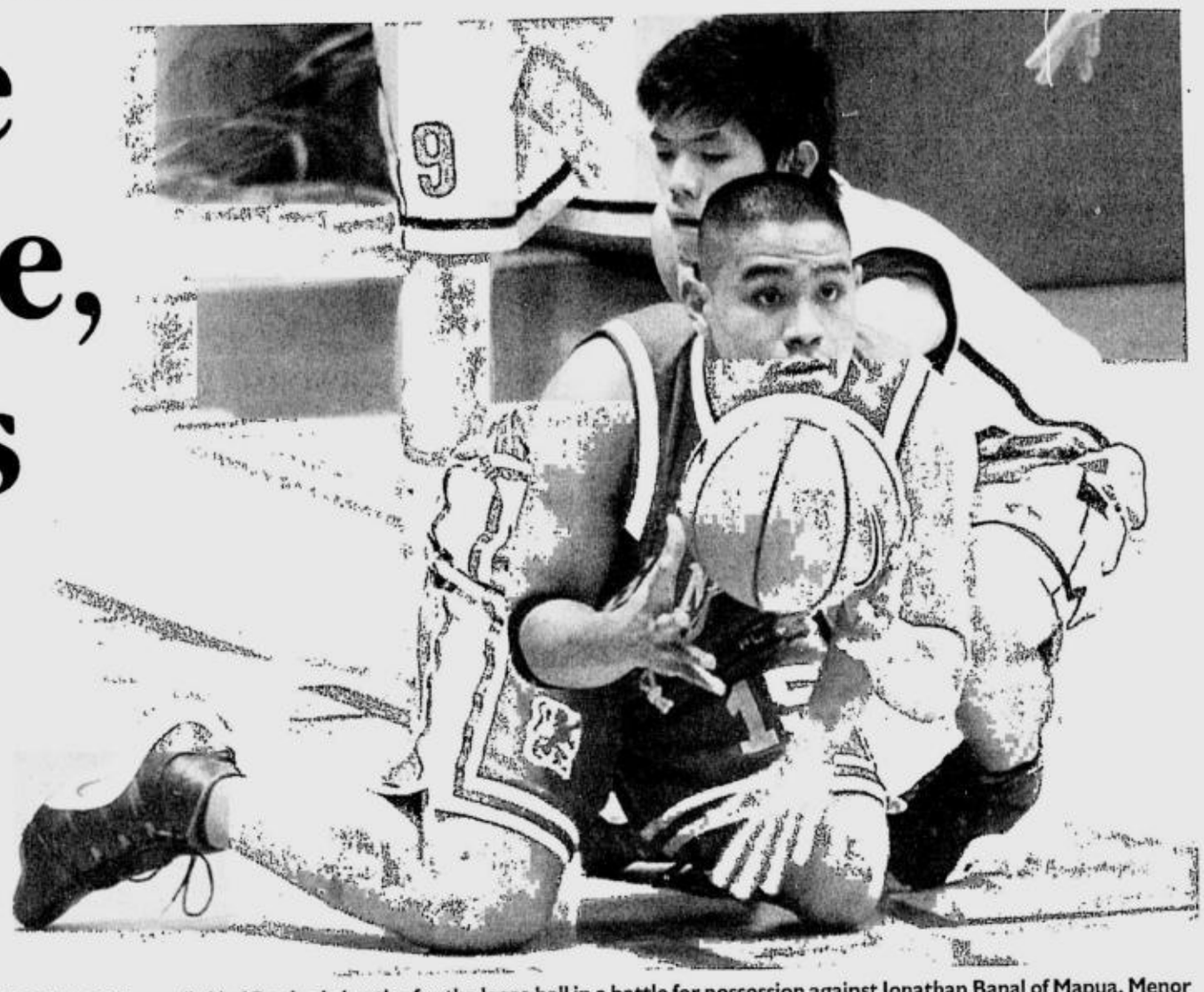
Excited over the prospect of the country once again competing in the SEAG basketball wars, BAP-Samahang Basketball ng Pilipinas executive director Patrick Gregorio and board of trustees member Christian Tan also dropped by to watch the proceedings.

Gregorio also said that he has asked the UAAP and NCAA boards to allow their players to attend the tryouts which will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Among the collegiate players being eyed are La Salle's Rico Maierhoffer and TY Tang, University of the East's Marcy Arellano, Mark Borboran and Elmer Espiritu, University of Santo Tomas' Jervy Cruz, San Beda's Pong Escobal and Yousif Aljamal, and San Sebastian's Jason Ballesteros and Jim Viray.

Lions survive Ekwe absence, rip Cardinals

Altas turn back Blazers



ROGEMAR Menor (left)of San beda hustles for the loose ball in a battle for possession against Jonathan Banal of Mapua. Menor helped the Lions buck the absence of Sam Ekwe, the hardworking 6-foot-8 center, who sat out yesterday's game because of a league-ordered suspension. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES TOMORROW (*The Arena*)
2 p.m.—Letran vs San Sebastian (srs)
4 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs Mapua (srs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA REMAINS A POTENT FORCE even without Sam Ekwe.

The Red Lions, exerting more effort to compensate for the absence of their hulking 6-foot-8 center, beat the Mapua Cardinals, 87-77, last night to gain the solo lead with their third straight win in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at The Arena in San Juan.

Hounded by the determined Cardinals, the Red Lions went through the wringer late in the third quarter when they trailed by as many as eight points, 64-56.

But the Red Lions quickly recovered by making eight of 10 free throws awarded them successively by the referees. That foul-strewn part of the third period, marked by a technical foul slapped on Mark Acosta, helped the Lions' turnaround. The calls drew the ire of Mapua coach Leo Isaac, who was later also slapped with a crucial technical foul.

"It's all about a test of character," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim. "I think my boys did a good job. Right now our character is intact."

With Ekwe serving a one-game suspension, 6-foot-5 Dave Marcelo stepped up for San Beda underneath, making 10 points and 13 rebounds. The Red Lions got the expected output from Yousif Aljamal and Ogie Menor and extra help from relief guard Garvo Lanete, who hit back-to-back three pointers at the start of the fourth quarter to give San Beda a 70-66 cushion.

But Mapua held fort in the final period, with San Beda holding on to a shaky 81-75 lead, 1:07 to go. But the referees slapped that technical on Isaac, Pong Escobal buried the two free throws awarded the Lions to make it 83-75, and San Beda simply watched as the fight slowly seeped out of Mapua.

Rookie Jonathan Banal tried to rally the Cardinals as he drove hard to the basket and fished a foul off Aljamal to make it 83-77. But he took too long to take his bonus free throw and was charged with a five-second violation.

That finally broke the Cardinals' resolve as they refused to hustle in the next play and allowed the Red Lions to hand them their third straight defeat.

Earlier, Perpetual Help found inspiration from Cebuano rookie Franz Dysam to beat St. Benilde, 62-52, and jump right back in orbit.

The 5-foot-10 guard scored nine points, including four clutch baskets in the fourth quarter, to bring back the energy for the Altas, who dropped their first two games. The Blazers dropped into a tie with their conquerors at 1-2.

"I told the boys not to give up, this is not the end yet because we can still turn things around," said Perpetual coach Bai Cristobal, who lost two key players this season, Khiel Misa and Fritz Bauzon, before losing 6-foot-9 Indonesian Thoyib Isman due to technicality.

"We needed someone to drive and make the baskets for us," he added.

That came in the form of Dysam, who rose from the bench to spearhead the Altas' offense which, before he came along, seemed going nowhere.

Dysam also had four rebounds in just 11 minutes of action. Flavio Liaz top-scored with 14 points and added three rebounds and two assists. Michael Kong chipped in 13 points, six rebounds and five assists.

Paolo Orbeta once again powered the Blazers but he failed to get support from the rest of the team as they trailed the Altas all game long. The Blazers once stared at a 49-33 hole late in the third quarter.

Hurting the Blazers was a cold 23 percent accuracy from the field, a performance that kept St. Benilde from taking advantage of the fact that Perpetual only managed a 34 percent clip from the floor.

St. Benilde also failed to get the usual numbers from big guy Christian Cabatu and Jeff Morial, who could only produce two and four points, respectively.

The scores

First Game

PERPETUAL 62—Liaz 14, Kong 13, Dysam 9, Manuel 7, Ynion 6, Lee 6, Balboa 3, Salanga 2, Reyes 2, Frebyan 0.

ST. BENILDE 52—Orbeta 14, Sevilla 8, Robles 8, Johnston 5, M. Urra 4, Morial 4, Layug 3, Aldover 2, Cabatu 2, Porras 2, David 0, Montecastro 0.

Quarters: 19-13, 33-27, 50-40, 62-52

Second Game

SAN BEDA 87—Aljamal 21, Menor 13, Lanete 12, Gamalinda 11, Escobal 10, Marcelo 10, Tecson 3, Maggay 3, Hermida 2, Taganas 2.

MAPUA 77—Co 18, Banal 15, Del Rosario 13, Dela Pena 11, Pascual 6, Acosta 6, Guillermo 4, Sumalinog 4, Mazo 0.

Quarters: 27-21, 42-38, 64-64, 87-77

SPORTSWATCH

Jaguar Phils cops 3rd in World Golf Final

ANTHONY TE AND JOJO MERCADO LED TEAM JAGUAR PHILIPPINES TO 3RD place in the recent 25th Jaguar World Golf Final in Gleneagles, Scotland. Team Finland won the title, with Team United Kingdom settling for runner-up in the event held May 23-24. Jaguar trophies and Nike golf gear were awarded in traditional Scottish dinner. Flown to Scotland via Air France-KLM, Team Jaguar Philippines enjoyed a four-day experience in the historic premiere Gleneagles King's and Queen's Course. The Gleneagles Resort is an exclusive 50 acre 5-Red Star facility in Perthshire, Scotland, that boasts three world class 18-hole championship golf courses, one 9-hole course and a luxury leisure club and spa.

50 fights in Las Pinas cockfest today

FIFTY FAST-PACED AND THRILLING MATCHES TAKE PLACE TODAY IN THE LAS Piñas Coliseum's Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan beginning at10 a.m. The "bracket of five" format will be adopted. To be hosted by Ric Javier and Antolin Abad, the event offers P5,000 to the fastest champion, P3,000 to the second placer and P2,000 to the third placer. The Hataw Pinoy 3-cock derby follows on Saturday with Lando Luzong and Mayor Nene Aguilar as hosts. The fastest win champion will get P20,000 worth of products from Univet Agricultural Products, Inc. Likewise, preparations are underway in Las Piñas Coliseum's LPC Annual 7-stag derby on Aug. 23 and 25. For details, call 873-1040 and 0926-745 0375 (Gerry or Julius).

Round 2 of Roligon derby stakes P3.5M

THE SHOWDOWN OF COCKFIGHT CHAMPIONS FROM DIFFERENT PROVINCES resumes today at Roligon Mega Cockpit as the second round elimination of "Hatawan Sa Tag-Ulan" 6-cock derby blasts off at 3 p.m. Hatawan, being hosted by Rolly Ligon, offers a guaranteed prize of P3.5 million. Among the 22 early qualifiers who tallied two wins each on Tuesday's opening round were California-based cocker Enrique Go, Rep. Gerry Espina, Jover Dilao, Obet Son, Pol Derpo, Larry Barbasa, James Uy, Jimmy delos Santos, Art de Castro, Capt. Pariquiton, and A. Moreno. The fastest win champion and second placer during the elimination rounds on July 3, 5 and 7 will receive P40,000 and P10,000, respectively. A bonus of P500,000 awaits the fastest win champion on July 11. A day champion's prize of P600,000 awaits participants who can score four straight wins on July 9.

TAIPEI BOUND: Muntinlupa City Mayor Aldrin San Pedro welcomes the Fighting Orcas Swim Club on his first day of office. The Orcas, under the tutelage of coach Susan Papa, former champion swimmer and Philippine record holder, is composed of swimmers aged 6-14 who have been participating in local and international swimming competitions. The Orcas are set to compete in Taipei.

BULLSEYE: Eight-year-old Joseph Marciano of Grace Christian High takes careful aim at the target during the recent Score Challenge Competition held at the Amoranto Sports Complex shooting range. Marciano scored 527, beating Olivia Villanueva's 526 to bag the title. The competition for young shooters aged eight to 10 was backed by the Quezon City Barangay Sport Shooting Organization under national coach Orly Marquez.

DRAGON BOAT

Farmers, fishermen row to victory in China event

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—ONLY ONE YEAR INto professional races and the Camsur Dragon Boat Team (CDBT) is already creating waves abroad.

The 33-man CDBT bagged its second international win in the 4th Nanning International Dragon Boat Tournament in China, sweeping all events.

In the open international competition in Nanning City from June 19-20 as part of the celebration of the Chinese National Dragon Boat Month, the CDBT won all events of the 500-meter and 800-meter races to take home four gold medals and six trophies for the overall championship.

CDBT, composed of farmers and fishermen from seven towns in Camarines Sur, thus scored a repeat of their performance in Singapore on September 2006 when they bagged all the gold medals staked in the Sava Sprints international dragon boat competition.

The opportunity to showcase their skills came when the provincial government sent a team to the Atienza Cup held at the Manila Bay in March last year, placing third in their first professional race.

After their first race, the racing team was given proper equipment and training by the provincial government.

"I was convinced of their performance, that they could compete in the international races as a way of promoting our province and showcasing of our local talents," said Gov. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte.

The team had also participated in Boracay races, where it humbled veterans and foreign participants in the dragon boat races by grabbing the championship in two separate events. *Juan Escandor, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Tigresses get ready for UAAP

By Romina S. Austria

IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE COUNTRY'S best collegiate volleyball teams, the desire to win decided which squad should be the rightful winner.

University of Santo Tomas, with key player Mary Jean Balse and guest Suzanne Roces abandoning their hospital beds, swept San Sebastian College to bag its second Shakey's V League women's volleyball tournament crown last Tuesday at The Arena in San Juan City.

"*Hindi na namin kakayanin* (We could not have done it)," said winning UST coach Augusto Santamaria on the prospects of San Sebastian extending the series to a winner-take-all Game 3.

Balse and Roces, a former University of the East spiker who also served as Adamson import during the eliminations, secured their doctor's go-signal at the last minute to be able to play in Game 2.

The duo have been afflicted with the flu since Sunday's Game 1 which the Tigresses handily won, 25-17, 25-12, 25-17.

"My players really showed the heart to win. Imagine, they were already confined (at the UST hospital) but were still thinking of the game," said Santamaria.

After winning Game 2, 25-14, 25-19, 17-25, 25-23, Balse and Roces briefly joined the celebration on court before retreating to the dugout to rest.

It was the perfect ending to the campaign of the Tigresses who almost missed the semifinals after back-to-back elimination round losses sent them on the brink at 2-3.

Santamaria said that with the way his players blasted the opposition en route to their second title after winning the inaugural season in 2004, he feels they are more than ready to defend their UAAP crown.

"We treat every match as if there's no tomorrow. We have to be ready at all times. We owe it to the school and to our supporters," said Santamaria.

Belated Father's Day story

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

MY SON RAYmond came home the other day with a story that would have been perfect for Father's Day.

The story is about Purefoods cager Marc Pingris whom he had met for the first time at the SportsCamp in Fort Bonifacio last Tuesday.

A man who loves to travel , Raymond said his attention was caught when he overheard Marc talk about a forthcoming trip to France, one of several countries in Europe which he found very interesting.

***

That started a conversation. Marc said he was was very excited about the trip because he was going to meet his French father, who is based in Normandy, for the first time. Marc said his father was twice as excited.

Pingris said his mother had been trying to locate his father for years, but the search always ended in frustration. Finally, she gave up.

But Marc didn't. He must've told his wife Danica about his decades-old dream of meeting his father and so together, the couple started the quest with Danica leading the way and doing most of the work.

She sought the help of the French Embassy and utilized the Internet extensively, never resting for a moment until she found who she was looking for. In the end, she was rewarded for all that effort.

***

I was never given the details of the drama behind that first telephone encounter, or even the first name of Marc's father. All I know is that Marc and Danica are leaving for Normandy any day now for the long overdue reunion.

I intend to have a long interview with the Pingrises as soon as they return from their European voyage.

In the meantime, although I didn't mean to pry , I just had to call PFC governor Rene Pardo to get a brief family sketch of Marc, since I practically knew nothing about him.

***

"Marc's father was working in the MWSS—if I'm not mistaken—when he met Marc's mother. Later, he returned to France," related Mang Pards, who obviously will not make a great historian.

Mang Pards said the couple will leave for Normandy on July 7, with Marc carrying a French passport.

Adieu! Bon Voyage! Don't forget to brush up on your (*Parlez-vous?*) Francais, guys.

***

At the end of the 2007 PBA Talk 'N Text Cup semis, Phone Pal Mark Cardona was leading the Best Player of the Conference race with 32.2 average statistical points.

The official list of candidates released by PBA head statistician Fidel Mangonon also includes Purefoods' James Yap with 32.1 points, Sta. Lucia's Kelly Williams with 31.4 points, Air 21's Gary David with 31.1 points and Alaska's Willie Miller with 29.9 points.

***

My colleague Lily Jacqueline O. Ramos of the Philippine News Agency who shares the same profound interest in the occult with me has a funny way of predicting the outcome of the PBA best-of-seven championship series between Alaska and Talk and Text.

I don't know what method of divination Lily Jackie O. used to make her forecast, but the picture that comes to mind during last Tuesday's press conference at the Golden Seafood Restaurant is that of Lily pressing her ear on the stomachs of coaches Tim Cone and Derick Pumarren and the players.

Or like a doctor, she could be using a stethoscope to listen to the rumblings of the digestive system of these people to determine which between the two teams makes the loudest noise collectively.

***

"The hungrier team will win, because they will be more aggressive, intense and determined," she pronounced, as she insinuated which one of the two was more starved.

Actually, I think both coaches and both teams are just as hungry as the other. For me what will be interesting to watch is the battle on the bench.

For sure, both coaches will be coming well prepared.

***

For Derick the preparation for the finals started immediately after the last game of the semifinal series, where the coaching staff immediately mapped out their gameplan until 4:30 in the morning.

They viewed tapes, assessed matchups, discussed strategies.

Derick and his boys do not expect drastic changes from their Alaska counterparts.

That night, Derick got so carried away he lost track of time. He was so ready to go to war he thought the first game of the series would be on Wednesday instead of Friday.

Bustamante, Biado joining Korean Open Pool July 26-29

FILIPINOS JOVEN BUSTAMANTE and Carlo Biado hope to sustain their rise to stardom when the 2007 Korean Open Pool Tour gets going in South Korea on July 26-29.

Bustamante and Biado will play against some of the world's best cue artists, including former world champions Thorsten Hohmann and Ralf Souquet of Germany and Mika Immonen of Finland, in the tournament that offers $7,000 to the champion.

The 28-year-old Bustamante, distant relative of former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante, settled for third place in the 2007 World 8-Ball Championships in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, early this year. His Bugsy stablemates Ronato Alcano and Dennis Orcollo landed first and second.

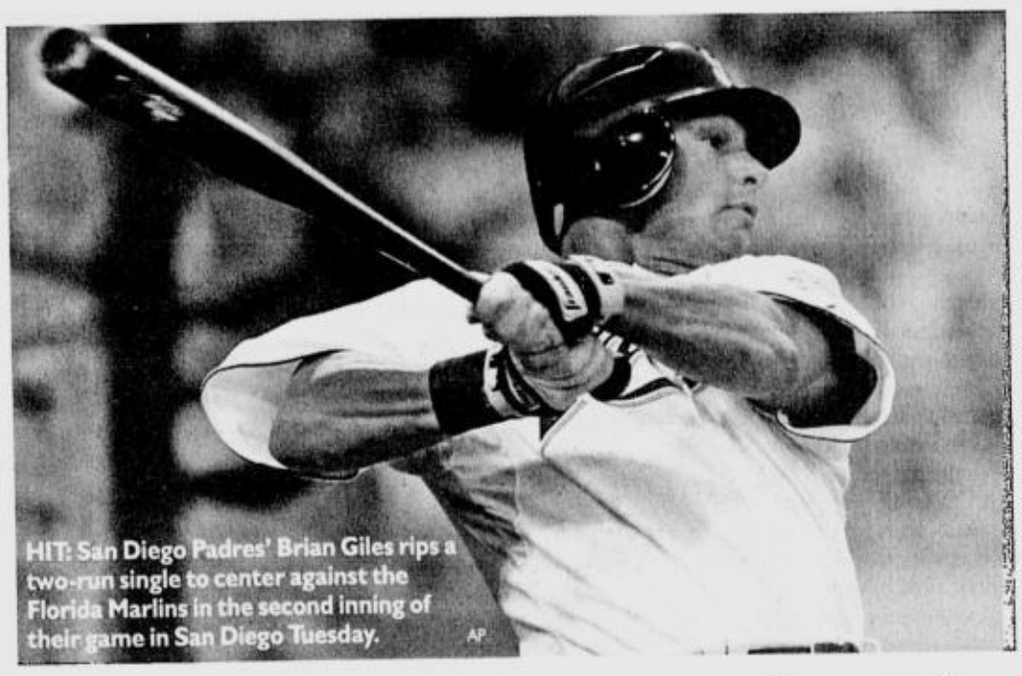
"We are grateful to boss Perry (Mariano) for giving me and Carlo (Biado) the break to play in the Korean Open," said Bustamante, who upset Alcano in the 2nd BSCP Open. "We'll do our best to bring glory to the country."

To prepare for the Korean Open, Bustamante will play in a Class B Player 10-ball event being co-staged by Puyat Sports and Bugsy Promotion on July 14 at the Bowling Inn on Taft Avenue.

The 25-year-old Biado is hoping to bounce back from a disappointing stint in the last Japan Open where he failed to advance to the knockout stage. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

BUSTAMANTE

BIADO



HIT: San Diego Padres' Brian Giles rips a two-run single to center against the Florida Marlins in the second inning of their game in San Diego Tuesday. AP

RP athletes to get crack at Chinese

By June Navarro

THE ATHLETES SENT BY THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION TO train in China will get a rare opportunity of pitting their skills against the Chinese national team.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez announced yesterday that testing the mettle of the athletes from wushu, fencing, diving, weightlifting against China's bets for the 2008 Beijing Olympics would be the climax of their foreign stint.

By exposing them to their Chinese counterparts, Ramirez said the 20 athletes would have a chance not only to size up the enemy but to also measure the progress of their training for the qualifying tournaments of the Olympics.

"They (athletes) will get to see how the Chinese athletes compete up close," said Ramirez, who insisted that the Filipinos should be ranged against the Chinese at least twice a month throughout the two-month training module.

According to Ramirez, the PSC is spending $60 a day for each athlete, inclusive of food and accommodations inside the Guangzhou training facility, apart from the $500 monthly stipend the athletes would be receiving.

Include the airfare and the fees of the Chinese coaches, which Ramirez failed to divulge, and the PSC is bound to shell out a least P2 million a month for the training program.

Zhong Chengean, coach of former world champion Liu Ziuhua, will be the mentor of Hidilyn Diaz in weightlifting. Two-time world champion and Olympic silver medalist Chen Baijian and triple gold medalist Huang Hoimei are assigned to the gymnasts.

Roehl Ramirez, the country's top gymnast, skipped the Chinese trip after his coach resigned last week.

Multiple gold medalists Chen Yanping, Wang Meng and Sun Xiayong will handle the wushu team composed of Benjie Rivera, Eduard Folayang, Marianne Mariano, Mary Rose Estimar, Willy Wang and Janice Hung.

"If the athletes are not comfortable in their training, we could bring them home since we're paying the Chinese on a monthly basis," said Ramirez.

The other athletes are Shiela Mae Perez, Nino Carog, Dhayna Lemay and twin sister Nicole, Jaime Asok, Reyex Ryan Fabriga, Kevin Kong and Zardo Domenios of diving.

Mariners test Roosters for title

IT'S GOING TO BE YOUTH VERSUS EXPERIence when the Makati Mariners battle the Negros Roosters for the first ever Baseball Philippines championship at 1 p.m. on Sunday at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

The Roosters will be working behind a roster filled with national players led by Ernesto Binarao while the Mariners are relying on their UAAP-reinforced lineup led by reigning UAAP Most Valuable Player Jonjon Robles.

"It's going to be a good game," said Makati team manager Jeff Santiago in the PSA Forum at Shakey's United Nations Avenue branch on Tuesday. "Negros is strong because most of its players are members of the national team. But we're young and aggressive. We're the underdogs, but we'll give them a good fight."

"The ball is round," said Bert Ituralde, manager of the Negros batters. "But since my players are more experienced, we have the slight edge."

Baseball Philippines marketing director Chito Loyzaga, technical committee head Santi Ledesma and Major League Baseball (MLB) consultant Joe Preseren also appeared in the public sports program to hype up the championship game of the tournament's pilot series.

Top players vying in Pichay chess

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING PLAYERS ARE EXpected to compete in the 4th Prospero Pichay Sr. Memorial Open Chess Tournament slated Aug. 12 to 15 in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur.

The nine-round Swiss system tournament, sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, offers P100,000 to the champion, P40,000 to the second placer and P20,000 to the third placer. Other top 10 placers will also receive cash prizes.

The tournament is being held to honor the late father of NCFP president and former representative Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. and in conjunction with the celebration of the Cantilan fiesta.

Tournament director Cesar Caturla said the event aims to discover potential chess players. Registration fee for the event topped by NM Ernesto Fernandez of Pagadian City last year is P200.

For inquiries, contact Caturla at 0928 713-2397. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Davao City hosts Milo leg Sunday

DAVAO CITY WILL HOST THE SEVenth leg of the 31st National Milo Marathon on Sunday in an out and back course at the Rizal Park.

Defending men's champion Reynante Villarma of Tagum City will have to contend with the region's top runners like Juniel Languido, Rey Mondrenedo, Elmer Bartolo, Joelito Duos, Angelito Sibayan and Rodel Bustamante.

Last year's women's champion Lesyl Gitaruelas, a fitness aerobic instructor from Cebu, will not join the Davao City race.

Sans Gitaruelas, Estela Mamac-Diaz, who topped the Kidapawan City leg last year, is expected to rule the distaff side. Strong challenge will come from April May Diaz of General Santos, Rachel Velasco of Igacos City and American Krystina McNeil.

More than 7,000 runners are expected to join the country's premier running event held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas and the Department of Tourism.

Philippine Sports Commissioner Leon G. Montemayor, City Sports coordinator Christopher "Bong" Go, City councilor Peter Lavina and City Council Sports chair April Marie Dayap have been invited to grace the awarding rites with Milo AVP for Sports Pat Goc-ong and Milo marathon national race organizer Rudy Biscocho.

The bulk of the 5K runners will come from Sta. Ana National High School, F. Banoy National High School and Daniel R. Aguinaldo National High School.

UST spikers eye revenge versus Hope

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS HOPES TO exact revenge against Hope Christian School when they dispute the Girls Volleyball League title on Saturday at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym in Loyola, Quezon City.

UST's only loss came at the hands of Hope Christian School, 24-26, 26-24, 25-21, during the elimination round on June 17.

Hope's lone setback was dealt by Phil. Institute of QC, 15-25, 25-10, 25-22, on May 5. The 2005 GVL champion had to beat last year's titlist University of the East, 25-21, 25-10, 25-22, to earn the right to meet UST, which is on its first final appearance in three years.

Hope, being coached by Jerry Yee, will bank on frontliners Carmela Garbin, Juliet So and Beverly Chan while UST, being mentored by Francis Vicente, will lean on Maru Banaticla, Aerieal Patnongon and Kim Fajardo.

With both teams strong in the attack department, league organizer Freddie Infante believes defense will be the key to victory in the finals. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

TeleTech, Air Relay gain MBT-Bayan semis

DEFENDING CHAMPION TELETECH got a big lift from Jonas Mariano and Ron Nineza to repulse HSBC, 84-81, and secure a semis berth in the MBT Bayan Call Center League over the weekend at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong.

Mariano and Nineze combined for 48 points to power TeleTech into the Final Four. Mariano struck hardest in the fourth with his torrid outside shooting.

With the win, TeleTech set up a semis duel against Scott Nagle's Air Relay.

Also securing berths in the semis of the event sponsored by Bayan Telecommunications and Span, the mobile landline phone, were Pacific Connexion and Epixtar.

With Nestor Turato at the helm, Air Relay clobbered Convergys, 83-60, while Pacific Connexion tripped NCO Group, 66-61, thanks largely to the inspired performance of Bernard Uy and Hamer Mondragon.

Banking on its fluid running game anchored on Allan Cruz, Dalmacion Abella and Mar Barreiro, Epixtar demolished Sitel, 75-56, in the event also supported by Mighty Filter Kings, Apo Floors, Basil 2000 Sportswear, Team Sparrow and Molten.

Teacher-student matchup. . .

From page A21

his sophomore year, especially in this conference with the Phone Pals loaning their top three gunners—Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and Renren Ritualo—to the national team.

With their paths expected to cross each other in the Finals, the 6-foot-1 Talk 'N Text guard dubbed as "Captain Hook" admitted he's thrilled no end at the prospect of going up against Miller one-on-one.

"*Sobrang* excited *ako dahil* first time *ko ito sa* finals (I'm really excited because this is my first time in a finals)," said Cardona. "At the same time, *makakalaban ko 'yung dati kong* idol, *si* Willie Miller (I will also be matched up against my old idol, Willie Miller)."

Miller, twice a champion with Red Bull and also an MVP winner in 2002, admits he has watched Cardona blossomed and won't be surprised if the net-torching Phone Pal takes him to school every now and then. It wouldn't be, after all, the first time.

"*Sa laro ako 'yung tinuturuan niya ng* hook shot *kung papano gawin* (In games, he teaches me a thing or two about the hook shot)," Miller said, referring to Cardona's trademark shot.

The task of taking on Cardona at the defensive end fell right on Miller's lap after veteran Jeffrey Cariaso, the Aces' premiere perimeter defender, hyper extended his calf muscle, rendering him useless at least in the first two games of the title series.

Miller isn't talking about the impending match-up against Cardona, and neither is Alaska coach Tim Cone making any pronouncements as to who will guard Talk 'N Text's leading scorer in the playoffs.

"Without a doubt Jeffrey (Cariaso) is a very experienced defender," said Cone. "He's guarded big time scorers and he's guarded imports throughout his career. Obviously he would have been our no. 1 choice to defend MacMac."

"But we just have to get someone else to step up and do that. We haven't decided yet who's gonna do that."

All signs point to Miller taking the task. And he—or whoever draws the assignment—will have his hands full.

Cardona has had a breakthrough playoffs stint this conference, especially in the semifinals against ousted champion Red Bull, where he averaged 27.5 points per game. That was highlighted by a career-high 38 points in the series clinching 122-110 victory, a career-high that was part of four 30-point performances in his last seven games.

Despite Cardona's sudden rise to stardom, Cone doesn't believe the Finals would come down to a "Cardona Show", stressing that everything will boil down on what "the five guys on the floor can do."

Still, there's no denying Cardona will be a marked man this coming championship series.

And whether he likes it or not, Miller has had a hand in making the Phone Pals guard into the defensive nightmare he has become.

Jaworski. . .

From page A21

other than it (negotiations) has been ongoing even during the [current Fiesta Cup]."

In other Air21 developments, management reportedly turned down two trade offers from Coca-Cola and Talk 'N Text for Gary David, the injured swingman who was one of the top local scorers of the tournament.

David, who averaged more than 24 points a night for the Express in the tournament, will be ready by November, close to two months after the next season opens. He is recovering from arthroscopic surgery that repair a torn ACL.

Cone. . .

From page A21

ered a failure on our part."

Woods gets his crack at a 13th Major title when the 2007 British Open tees off in a couple of weeks. Tiger is actually seeking to win the world's oldest national championship for the third straight year.

And like Tiger, who is just six shy of Jack Nicklaus' all-time mark of 18.

SPORTS

Czech teen ends Mauresmo reign

NICOLE Vaidisova of the Czech Republic claims one of the biggest wins of her career, a 7-6, 4-6, 6-1 decision over defending champion Amelie Mauresmo during the fourth round of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. AFP

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—EVEN BY Wimbledon standards, there's been a lot of rain this year at the All England Club.

The fickle English weather caused stoppages and postponements on seven of the tournament's eight days.

And the constant starting and stopping didn't do much to help defending champion Amelie Mauresmo—she lost in the fourth round Tuesday to 18-year-old Nicole Vaidisova, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-1.

"She was in a much better rhythm throughout the whole match than I was," the two-time major champion said. "Definitely, those interruptions don't help."

On Wednesday, 2006 runner-up Rafael Nadal and Robin Soderling were scheduled to head back on to the court to complete a third-round match that was supposed to be played last Saturday.

The second seed, who had a match point Monday in the third set, played for a total of 20 minutes in the fifth set Tuesday to get to 4-4.

Also, No. 2 Maria Sharapova and Venus Williams were to resume their fourth-round match after playing only three points Tuesday, and No. 3 Andy Roddick was to finish his fourth-round match against Paul-Henri Mathieu. No. 4 Novak Djokovic was also to finish his suspended third-round match against Nicolas Kiefer.

Serena Williams, who overcame a calf strain to reach the quarterfinals, was scheduled to play top-ranked Justine Henin.

Play on Center Court and Court No. 1 started two hours earlier than usual Tuesday because of the backlog of matches. Only seven singles matches were completed in between six rain delays.

Organizers said they were 177 matches behind schedule, including 13 in singles—eight in the men's draw and five for the women.

Besides Mauresmo, No. 3 Jelena Jankovic was upset, playing through four rain delays and losing to No. 18 Marion Bartoli of France, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

"There is no reason for me to lose this match," Jankovic said. "But in these circumstances anything can happen."

Bartoli will next face No. 31 Michaella Krajicek in the first Grand Slam quarterfinal for both players.

In the third round of the men's draw, 2002 Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt beat Guillermo Canas, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, and Nikolay Davydenko advanced by defeating Gael Monfils, 6-3, 7-5, 6-3.

"That's the longest and toughest rain-delayed match I've ever had to put up with," said Hewitt, who was originally scheduled to play Canas on Saturday.

Juan Carlos Ferrero, the 2003 French Open champion, also reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the first time by beating Janko Tipsarevic, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (5) and will next face four-time defending champion Roger Federer, who has not played since Friday.

"It was very important to win because the rain was coming again," Ferrero said, "so I tried to finish in three sets."

Mauresmo had 14 double-faults and 37 unforced errors against Vaidisova, who reached the quarterfinals for the first time at the All England Club.

Vaidisova will play No. 6 Ana Ivanovic in the quarterfinals. The French Open runner-up beat Nadia Petrova, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, in a match interrupted by rain four times.

Also, 2004 U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova reached the quarterfinals by beating 16-year-old Tamira Paszek of Austria, 6-3, 6-2, and will next face either Venus Williams or Sharapova. *AP*

AUSTRALIA'S Lleyton Hewitt survives Argentina's Guillermo Canas to advance to the final 16. REUTERS

Homer No. 751 moves Bonds within four of Aaron's record

CINCINNATI—IN THE SAME CITY where Hank Aaron completed his quest, Barry Bonds came out hammering.

Swinging at the first three pitches he saw, Bonds connected on his third try for homer No. 751 on Tuesday night. He's now four shy of Aaron's record following the San Francisco Giants' 7-3 loss to the Cincinnati Reds.

"He's a guy that people were saying: 'Is Father Time catching up with him?'" manager Bruce Bochy said.

Instead, Bonds got closer to catching Aaron in the city where Hammerin' Hank hit No. 714, tying Babe Ruth's previous mark. That record-book homer on opening day 1974 landed at Riverfront Stadium, which has since been demolished.

Aaron's record soon will be, too.

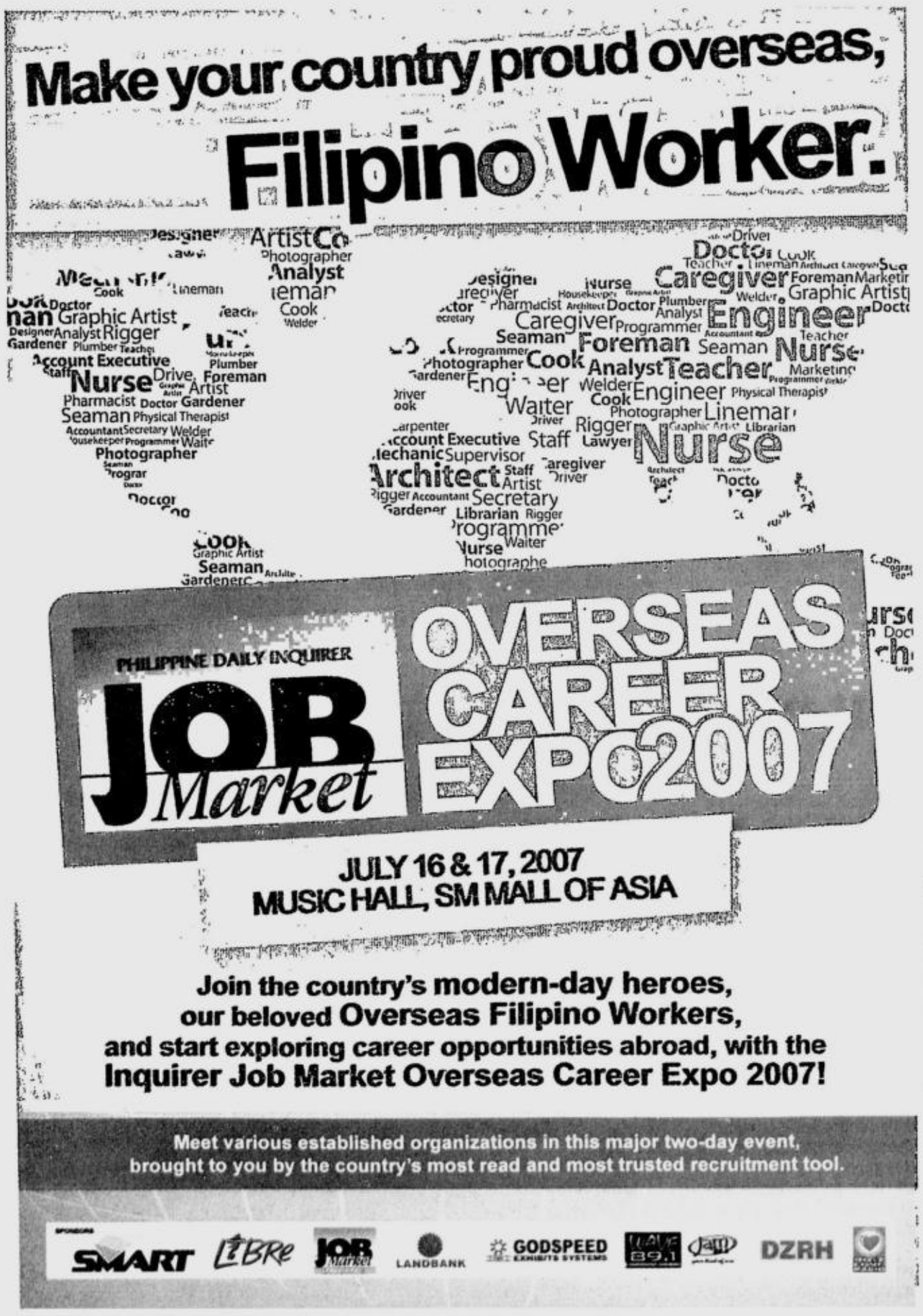
Bonds' homer on his third swing of the game drew loud and prolonged boos from the crowd of 37,299, a reminder that fans outside of San Francisco view his record chase through the prism of baseball's steroid scandal.

Like it or not, he's closing in.

"I'm playing pretty good for an old guy," the 42-year-old Bonds said. "I just wish we were playing better as a team."

So do the Reds, who have the major leagues' worst record and its newest manager.

Brandon Phillips' grand slam gave Pete Mackanin a victory in his debut as Cincinnati's interim manager. *AP*



Daughter's birth steals Tiger's concentration

BETHESDA, MARYLAND—THERE WAS the slightest crack in Tiger Woods' voice when he did a TV interview after walking off the 18th green at the U.S. Open, where he finished a close second.

Now we know why.

Woods revealed on Tuesday that his wife, Elin, was admitted to the hospital on the Thursday of the U.S. Open, experiencing complications as she prepared to deliver the couple's first child.

"It wasn't life-threatening or anything, but she just had a few problems and had to be admitted," Woods said. "It wasn't easy. It was not easy, because I wanted to be there.

And the doctor and Elin said, 'There's nothing you can do. So go out there and just get a 'W.'

"Well, came close. But that night was infinitely more rewarding than any 'W' ever could have been."

Talk of Daddy Tiger nearly threatened to overshadow the real reason for his appearance at Congressional Country Club: His new U.S. PGA Tour tournament, the AT&T National, which tees off on Thursday.

Vague and guarded at times but emotional at others, Woods spoke for the first time about the birth of Sam Alexis Woods on the morning of June 18 and his subsequent first 2½ weeks of fatherhood.

As often is the case when discussing his private life, Woods was scant on details. Asked to give a timeline of the night of his daughter's birth, he said simply: "I flew, landed in Orlando, went straight to the hospital and next thing you know, we have Sam Alexis in our arms."

Asked if he would have returned to Oakmont the next day for an 18-hole playoff had he birdied the final hole to tie leader Angel Cabrera, Woods said: "Well, that didn't happen, so it would be all hypothetical. I'm not going down that road."

Asked how he managed to focus on his game those four days, he said: "You just do. You just do."

"You've got to understand," said Notah Begay, Woods' longtime friend and teammate at Stanford University. "When you grow up with a father and a military background, you've got to learn how to focus when you're getting yelled at, and you've got to learn how to focus when you have distractions."

And, for the record, Woods said he already has put a golf club in his young daughter's tiny hands. *AP*

Mavs teach Yi tough cage lessons

DALLAS—YI JIANLIAN'S FIRST TASTE OF NBA competition did not go smoothly, as he scored 11 points for China in a 105-100 loss to the Dallas Mavericks' summer league team on Tuesday.

Yi, selected with the sixth overall pick by the Milwaukee Bucks in the NBA draft, had just one point in the second half. He shot 3-for-9 from the floor while committing three turnovers in 31 minutes. He did have a team-leading 10 rebounds, along with two assists and two blocked shots.

"Just the second game from missing three months," Yi said, noting that he just rejoined the national team. "I think we'll get there."

Reportedly unhappy with the prospect of playing in a city with a small Asian population, Yi still refuses to discuss his NBA future.

Two days after an uninspiring 15-point effort against the U.S. Under-19 team, Yi showed flashes of brilliance but also struggled at times in an inconsistent showing.

"It's very difficult to talk about Yi," China coach Jonas Kazlauskas said. "Three months, he was by himself without team and without coaches. He needs seven, eight games to catch up with us."

The crowd at Moody Coliseum went quiet early in the second quarter when Yi sank to the floor doubled over in pain, holding his stomach. After remaining down for about a minute, Yi returned to action and came down with a rebound on the next play.

Yi's teammate, Sun Yue, who went 40th overall to the Los Angeles Lakers, contributed two points while former Maverick and five-year NBA veteran Wang ZhiZhi scored 28 points for China. *AP*

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6-month budget deficit hits ₱37.7B

Teves says figure exceeded ceiling by P6.4B

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO TEVES YESTERDAY admitted that the government likely breached the budget-deficit ceiling that it set for the first half of the year.

Teves said that preliminary figures from the Department of Finance showed that the budget deficit for the January-to-June period exceeded the P31.3-billion ceiling by P6.4 billion as the shortfall was estimated at P37.7 billion.

The first-half deficit ceiling was in line with the government's goal of keeping the budget gap for the entire year to only P63 billion, or slightly lower than last year's P64.8 billion.

The expected deficit for the first half was blamed on poor revenue collection by the bureaus of Internal Revenue and of Customs, the two main sources of revenues by the national government.

Taxes collection by the BIR amounted to only P333 billion from January to June, falling short by P40 billion against the goal of P373 billion for the first half. Similarly, Customs collected only P92.3 billion in taxes and duties, or a P13-billion shortfall from its target of P105.3 billion for the first half.

But Teves said that despite the breaching of the deficit target for the first half, the government was still sticking to the goal of reducing the budget

6-MONTH/ B3

Gov't stake in Meralco now worth ₱11B

THE GOVERNMENT WILL RAISE about P11 billion in additional revenues if it would sell its shares in Manila Electric Co. at current market price, more than double the P5-billion estimate two months ago.

Still, the Department of Finance said it expected the share price of Meralco to increase in the next few months, enough reason why the government should not hurry the privatization of its equity stake in the utility firm.

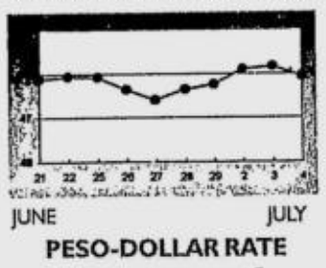
The national government has a 12-percent stake in Meralco. The DOF said that last May, Meralco shares were worth about P50 a share, but the price has increased to over P110 a share this month.

A finance official in charge of privatization noted that there was a pending request before the Energy Regulatory Commission for Meralco to raise electricity rates. Should the request be granted, the official said Meralco's share price might go up some more.

"If we (DOF) were asked if there is still scope for the price to go up, then we would say 'yes'," the official told reporters. "That is why it is easy to justify not to immediately sell the Meralco shares." *Michelle V. Remo*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.54-PERCENT lower yesterday as investors took profits on the latest record-breaking advance, dealers said.

The composite index fell 20.33 points to 3,731.66, off its day-high of 3,759.29.

SHARES/ B2

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RP seen becoming Asia's franchising hub /B3

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2. Why invest in Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?
A floating rate bond protects the investor from interest rate volatility since it moves with the prevailing market rates. This is most beneficial to the investor during times of increasing interest rates like now

3. Who can purchase the Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?
Any individual or corporate entity can purchase the Bonds, subject to the submission and approval of the documents required by the Registrar.

4. How does an investor participate in the Public Offer?
The bonds will be offered within a given fixed period. During this, the investor simply calls an FMIC Marketing Officer to indicate a firm commitment to buy the bonds.

Participation is via the submission of (1) a fully filled-up Application to Purchase, (2) fully filled-up Investor Registration Form and Signature Card, and (3) required documents by the Registry i.e. photocopy of IDs for individuals, standard corporate documents for corporate buyers.

5. What is an investor's proof of ownership?
A confirmation of an investor's participation is evidenced by a Registry Confirmation issued by the Registrar. Upon acceptance of an Application to Purchase, a receiving copy shall be given to the investor while the Registry Confirmation is released by the Registrar within 7-10 working days from the issue date. The best evidence of ownership will be the registry book maintained by the Registrar.

6. Can the bonds be pre-terminated?
The bonds cannot be pre-terminated by the bondholders as per BSP regulations. However, investors can sell the Bonds in the secondary market through FMIC, as the Market Maker.

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PNB, Allied Bank merger a 'done deal'

Banks just waiting for SC decision on ill-gotten wealth suit

By Michelle V. Remo

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK AND Allied Bank, both controlled by taipan Lucio Tan, have agreed to merge.

PNB president Omar Byron Mier told reporters that officials of PNB and Allied Bank have reached an agreement that a merger would be beneficial to both banks as this would create a much stronger bank.

Mier said the only hurdle to the merger was the pending legal dispute between Allied Bank and the government, which is running after a block of shares held by Tan in the belief that it was ill-gotten.

The Supreme Court ruled earlier that the shares being questioned were owned by Tan, but the government challenged this with a motion for reconsideration.

Mier said the planned merger could not push through until the Supreme Court has decided on the motion for reconsideration.

"Between the two banks, the merger is already a done deal. But we don't know how long it will take the Supreme Court to make a decision," Mier told reporters in an ambush interview.

The PNB official said the two banks were already in the process of discussing the terms of the merger, which he said could be done immediately after the Supreme Court issues a ruling.

He said the banks would consult their stockholders as to who should be the surviving entity. But Mier added that the merged entity would not drop the words "Philippine" and "National," saying no bank is likely to ever again get such a name that is representative of the country.

PNB is the country's sixth-biggest bank in terms of assets, and a leader in servicing overseas Filipino workers with the huge volume of remittances sent through it.

On the other hand, Allied is a commercial bank whose services are geared mainly at affluent Chinese-Filipino customers.

A merger between the two banks will create the fourth-biggest bank in the country in terms of assets. As of the first quarter, combined assets of the two banks were estimated at P397.3 billion.

PNB earlier announced that it has paid the P6.1 billion worth of outstanding liabilities it had with Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., formally completing its rehabilitation program.

PNB went under a rehabilitation plan in late 2000 due to liquidity problems. PDIC extended a P25-billion financial assistance to the bank to cover huge withdrawals.

Mier said that following its exit from rehabilitation, PNB's goal now was to sustain growth in its income and improve its return on equity to between 15 and 20 percent.

In the first quarter, PNB reported a net income of P308.3 million, 60 percent higher than that of the same period last year. PNB targets to hit a net income of P1 billion this year, Mier said.

The PNB president said the bank has about P12 billion worth of nonperforming loans, translating into an NPL ratio of 10.8 percent. He said the bank expects to sell anywhere between P4 billion and P5 billion worth of NPLs this year to reduce its NPL ratio to a single-digit level.

Rid my lips

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WORD HAS IT THAT, FOR WHATEVER reason, this cute administration is sending Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita packing out of the Palace.

Ermita supposedly is going to the state-owned gaming firm Pagcor, taking the place of current Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino.

Hmm. Read my lips: Why would Gloriaetta get rid of Genuino?

Supposedly, some whispering hangers-on at the Palace were blaming Genuino partly for that disaster in the mid-term elections.

The disaster was not one person's fault, however, and if the blame should be put on a single personality, it would have to be Gloriaetta herself.

It was her popularity, or the lack of it, that weighed down on her senatorial candidates.

If Genuino indeed must go, as the rumor mills have it, this cute administration is going down in history as the only administration in this country that tries it best to get rid of its outstanding performers. Take a bow—Lito, Omar and Jojo!

Under Genuino in the past six years, Pagcor has been breaking all-time records in profitability.

Still, I'm really a bit skeptical about the rumors for a different reason.

Genuino is an "orig" in Gloriaetta's political camp, having been involved in her political campaigns ever since she first ran for the Senate way back in 1989.

On the other hand, Ermita is a political carryover from previous administrations.

Thus, it is said that Ermita has his own cabal of political hangers-on at the Palace, who had a brush with other cabals in this cute administration in the mid-term elections campaign.

Hint—it had something to do with the media budget, if you know what I mean.

And so I think that, no, the rumors cannot be true! Gloriaetta cannot get rid of Genuino just like that!

Unless of course Gloriaetta just wants Ermita out of the Palace!

* * *

IN THIS VIVACIOUS stock market, one issue is making analysts sit up and take notice—Security Bank.

Recently the price of Security Bank shares jumped by P2, its biggest single day gain in the past two months, and they thus traded at P86 each.

Now, news reports cited an analysis of the foreign firm Mcquarie Securities, which watches the publicly listed banks in Asia.

In its analysis of Security Bank, Mcquarie noted that banks normally benefit from higher economic growth rates.

As everybody believes, except perhaps UP Economics professors, this cute administration claims a 6.9-percent GDP growth in the past five months.

According to the Mcquarie report, together with the low interest rates, the high economic growth rate creates a "reflationary environment."

Meaning, a lot of people are spending a lot of money, whether for consumption or for investments, such as getting into the stock market.

But more than just the economics of it, Mcquarie cited Security Bank for posting net margins (4 percent in 2006) that were higher than the industry average.

The bank also has one of the highest "asset quality" ratios among the local banks. Meaning, its bad loans are fewer than those of the other banks, plus it has more provisions for them.

In effect, the Mcquarie report credits Security Bank for new ways in getting into the loan markets, such as an arrangement with a developer (Megaworld, I suppose) for the longest mortgage being offered by all the banks in the country today.

Okay, enough said, because I'm sure you can take a hint.

* * *

REMEMBER that nasty quarrel among the former business partners in the Star Tollway, which is an adjunct of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in Batangas?

Well, it has turned even nastier.

Report said that the Pasig City Prosecutors Office filed charges of two counts of qualified theft against businessman Cesar Quiambao.

If the name rings a bell, it's because Quiambao is the same figure behind the Skyway project at the SLEX with the Indonesian groups during the time of former President Fidel Ramos.

Also, Quiambao used to be the partner of Robert Wong, Aderito Yujuico and Bonifacio Sumbilla in various projects, including the machine-readable passport project of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The cases involved Star Infrastructure Development Corp., or SIDC, in which Quiambao was the chair and CEO.

Allegedly, Quiambao withdrew P1.5 million from the account of Star Tollway Corp. (or STC, the operator of Star Tollway) at the Export Import Bank, as "advances" to a company called Strategic Alliance Holdings, or SAHI.

Guess what—STC had nothing to do with SAHI. Guess what's more—ownership and control of SAHI belonged to … well, Quiambao himself.

Also, Quiambao allegedly gave some P320,000 to another company called Land Registration Systems Inc., which he also happened to own and control.

Quiambao of course denied the allegations, saying that they were "without basis." He also filed a complaint with the National Bureau of Investigation.

Still, the Pasig City Prosecutors Office said that it found sufficient evidence for the case to go to trial.

Says the office: "Personal property belonging to STC was taken … done by respondent through his corporation SAHI.

"The element of intent to gain is presumed…"

The question is, what will happen now to the government projects in which Quiambao is also involved, one way or another?

Possible answer: They will rot!

Shares close lower

From page B1

On Tuesday, the key index surged to a new closing record of 3,751.99.

The broader all-share index declined 0.05 point to 2,398.17.

Market breadth was positive with gainers outnumbering decliners 80 to 42, while 53 stocks ended flat.

Turnover thinned to 2.4 billion shares worth P4.3 billion.

"The market drifted sideways with the US taking a holiday break while there were no fresh local leads to sustain yesterday's run-up," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

US markets are shut Wednesday, independence day.

"After bursting into uncharted territory, the market had to consolidate as it seeks a more comfortable support level," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

Investors have switched to small-capitalization scrips that have fallen sharply in recent sessions, Macapagal said, "Punters are stepping back into second and third-line issues while blue chip stocks are correcting."

Ayala Corp. led advancers while market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) retreated. Ayala added P15 to P565 while PLDT lost P10 to P2,690. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

July 4, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.734538	1.000000	45.8160
Japan	Yen	0.006002	0.008171	0.3744
United Kingdom	Pound	1.481783	2.017300	92.4246
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094019	0.127997	5.8643
Switzerland	Franc	0.604160	0.822504	37.6838
Canada	Dollar	0.692503	0.942774	43.1941
Singapore	Dollar	0.482107	0.656340	30.0709
Australia	Dollar	0.627649	0.854482	39.1489
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.948532	2.652731	121.5375
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.195866	0.266652	12.2169
Brunei	Dollar	0.480530	0.654193	29.9725
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000111	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023186	0.031566	1.4462
UAE	Dirham	0.199988	0.272264	12.4740
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.361400	62.3739
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.001090	0.0499
China	Yuan**	0.096721	0.131676	6.0329
Argentina	Peso	0.237638	0.323520	14.8224
Brazil	Real	0.383771	0.522466	23.9373
Denmark	Kroner	0.134412	0.182989	8.3838
India	Rupee	0.018181	0.024752	1.1340
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213280	0.290360	13.3031
Mexico	New Peso	0.068206	0.092855	4.2542
New Zealand	Dollar	0.573903	0.781311	35.7965
Norway	Kroner	0.126040	0.171591	7.8616
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012182	0.016584	0.7598
South Africa	Rand	0.105356	0.143431	6.5714
Sweden	Kroner	0.108648	0.147914	6.7768
Syria	Pound	0.014150	0.019264	0.8826
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022395	0.030488	1.3968
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000342	0.000466	0.0214

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—July 3, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of July 3, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 4, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	41,500
73	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	71.5	71.5	71	71	338,700
73.5	47.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	71	72	71	71	789,200
935	630	China Banking Corp.	910	915	910	915	1,480
20.25	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20	20.25	20	20.25	2,300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.56	6,890,000
75.5	34	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	74	74	71	71	2,850,400
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	62	62.5	62	62.5	129,100
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	65	65	65	65	3,500
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	51	51	50	51	2,700
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	35	35	34.5	35	291,300
90	44	Security Bank Corp.	87	87.5	87	87.5	155,900
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	174,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	5.1	5.1	4.95	4.95	426,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	428,000
14.25	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	574,900
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.2	1.28	3,129,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,680.00	1,685.00	1,680.00	1,685.00	510
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.4	4.4	4.35	4.35	3,026,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.75	2.8	22,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	850	850	835	835	2,640
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	410
1.94	1.2	iVantage Corp	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.84	1,531,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
68	41.5	First Gen Corp.	67	67.5	67	67	676,300
91.5	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	91	91	88.5	89	417,500
13.25	7.3	Manila Water Co. Inc.	13	13	12.25	12.5	1,174,300
116	14.5	Manila Electric Co. "A"	114	114	110	110	287,690
118	22	Manila Electric Co. "B"	116	116	111	112	1,631,900
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	30,394,000
6	3.7	Petron Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	7,838,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.48	1.5	235,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.8	6	5.8	5.9	1,274,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.3	2.36	2.24	2.26	314,000
2.75	1.24	CADP Group Corp.	2	2.2	2	2.2	61,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	100,000
61	30.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	54	53	53	270,600
7.3	4.6	Pancake House Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	560,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	3	3	2.95	2.95	1,253,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	73.5	74	73.5	74	88,900
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	82.5	83	82.5	83	1,590,800
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	180,000
4.3	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4.2	4	4.2	106,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.25	17.5	17.5	2,475,400
0.55	0.19	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.43	0.36	0.4	2,270,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.43	EEI Corp.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	661,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	30,000
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	22,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.76	1.72	1.76	1,466,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	4,496,000
2.5	1.44	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	30,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	23,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.44	0.0625	Picop Resources Inc.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.35	19,610,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.74	A. Soriano Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	88,000
0.17	0.023	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.13	55,320,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.06	1.12	1.04	1.12	37,860,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.08	2.18	2	2.06	2,442,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.46	2.46	2.14	2.22	98,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	62,000,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	14,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.8	6,162,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	462,200,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	32,992,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	500,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.48	2.55	2.46	2.5	6,616,000
6	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4.1	6	4.1	6	578,000
590	308.33	Ayala Corp.	550	570	550	565	357,390
13.75	6.96	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	185,600
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources & Holdings Co. Inc.	4.5	5	4.5	4.95	2,940,000
5.6	1.02	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.2	3,410,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.2	9.4	1,521,000
2.02	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.9	1.94	1.9	1.9	147,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.2	7.2	1,425,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	185,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	251,400
0.8	0.185	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	130,000
0.95	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.75	50,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	22.5	24	22.5	23.5	1,215,400
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	8.8	9.6	8.5	9.3	11,455,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.7	4.2	4.45	1,022,000
0.038	0.009	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	37,500,000
1.54	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	50,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.57	0.59	0.57	0.57	15,130,000
1.98	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	30,000
452.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	440	450	440	450	66,460
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	119,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.56	22,340,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.79	0.88	0.79	0.88	1,050,000
1.6	0.78	South China Resources Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.38	397,000
2	0.8	Vivant Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	1,000
0.75	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc	0.36	0.39	0.34	0.36	9,380,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.67	0.9	0.67	0.88	1,280,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	313,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.77	0.8	0.77	0.78	1,050,000
19.25	9.58	Ayala Land Inc.	18	18	17.5	17.75	35,868,200
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.68	4,250,000
4.7	1.96	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.45	4.45	99,000
0.85	0.26	Crown Equities Inc.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.79	5,120,000
0.83	0.17	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	9,930,000
3.25	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	463,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.87	0.85	0.87	16,450,000
0.32	0.033	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.27	19,970,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	11,341,000
2.44	0.99	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.14	2.18	2.14	2.16	13,976,000
0.41	0.0525	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.34	5,130,000
0.42	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	2,300,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	3,000,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.9	0.93	0.9	0.93	3,900,000
4.4	1.28	Megaworld Corp.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	36,061,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.45	182,000
0.7	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	2,270,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.66	0.66	1,270,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6.9	7	6.5	6.9	375,000
23	10.25	Robinson Land Corp.	20	21	20	21	3,017,600
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.6	2,116,000
13	5.92	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.25	12.25	6,038,800
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.97	1.08	0.97	1.04	5,750,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.28	9,780,000
7.4	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	6.8	7.1	6.8	7	8,449,000
		MEDIA					
34	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	31	31	78,200
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.6	3,054,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,395.00	1,400.00	106,700
2,820.00	1,790.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,685.00	2,690.00	27,040
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7	7.3	6.9	7.2	32,465,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	7,500,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.25	69,700
9.1	2	IPVG Corp.	9	9.1	8.4	8.5	22,826,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.047	0.046	0.047	28,100,000
23	5.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	22.5	22.5	21	21.5	55,300
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.28	2.28	2.2	2.2	151,000
0.185	0.04	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	51,670,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.66	1.66	55,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	145,300,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc	2.55	2.9	2.48	2.9	30,767,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.54	1.58	1.52	1.58	355,000
32	13.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	29	29	28.5	28.5	65,400
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	459,000
1.8	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.6	1.66	1.6	1.66	17,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.65	689,000
5.2	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	5	5	5	5	4,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Prod. Inc.	0.74	0.76	0.72	0.75	4,160,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.96	0.97	0.93	0.94	470,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	8	7.9	8	13,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
7.5	2.75	Easycall Comm. Phils. Inc.	5	6	5	6	3,000
5.8	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.9	5.8	4.9	5.8	12,866,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15	15.5	15	15.5	289,100
30	9.9	Paxys Inc	24	24	23.25	23.5	175,900
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	184,200,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	122,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	317,000
21.25	7.4	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.75	15.75	14.75	15	6,377,800
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.2	7,000
3.05	0.0646	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.7	2.85	2.65	2.75	71,418,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	128,340,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	48,020,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	59,600,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	5,000,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	311,000,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.7	7,754,000
31	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	30	30	30	30	95,800
1.36	0.35	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.92	0.95	0.92	0.95	3,160,000
1.8	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.32	2,079,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.44	4,480,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.022	57,500,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	7,300,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.25	10	10	18,400
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	57,100,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

RP seen becoming Asia's franchising hub

Increased export of managers to train, oversee and support franchisees expected

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY IS EXPECTED TO BEcome an Asian hub for franchising considering its deep pool of franchise executives and the abundance here of unique business models.

According to the Philippine Franchisers Association, new franchise concepts would emerge in the region as countries gear toward free market economies.

PFA said franchising had become the most popular strategy for growing a business as it offered new business owners the best possible chance of succeeding with the least risk.

Samie Lim, PFA chair emeritus, said the number of franchise concepts had grown about eight times to 993 this year from 111 in 1992.

Lim was speaking at yesterday's opening of the two-day 15th Philippine International Franchise Conference being held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City.

"Locally developed franchise concepts have grown at an amazing rate, averaging 23 percent yearly," Lim said. "Many of these local franchises have been so successful and perhaps very competitive that they have displaced a not-so-insignificant number of foreign franchise concepts," he added.

In Southeast Asia, Lim said the Philippines had the highest number of franchises despite its low per capita GDP (gross domestic product) of $1,300.

Regional economic leader Singapore, which has 20 times per capita income, has less than half the number at 420. In Indonesia there are 425 franchises; Thailand, 375, and Malaysia 305.

"Perhaps a large and growing population and a growing economy are the foundations for the sustained development of franchising in the country," Lim said.

Also, Lim said the vibrant franchising industry here had given local entrepreneurs the experience and confidence to go overseas and expand.

According to PFA forecasts, franchising would be the benchmark business of the century. It is expected to help improve national incomes in Asia, especially in countries that were considered low-income like the Philippines.

PFA said more and more business people and professionals were going into franchising while more and more home-grown franchises were expected to expand overseas.

The initial drive would be to countries with large populations of migrant workers like overseas Filipino workers, and later to other destinations.

PFA said franchising would be a top dollar earner for the Philippines as the country would export top management personnel who would train, oversee and support foreign franchisees.

PFA data show that domestic franchising sales account for about 1.2 percent of GDP and represent 15 percent of total retail sales.

GMA VISITS NESTLÉ LIPA FACTORY
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, accompanied by Trade Secretary Peter Favila, inspects a box of breakfast cereals at the Lipa City factory of Nestlé Philippines Inc. (NPI) during a recent visit. The factory, which serves as Nestle's Asean center for breakfast cereals, provides direct and indirect employment to thousands in the area. It exported some P1.3 billion worth of breakfast cereals to other Asian markets in 2006.

Shell clinches P556-M Napocor lube oil contract

By Abigail L. Ho

PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORP. HAS secured a P556-million contract to supply lubricating oil to National Power Corp.'s power plants and power barges.

Under the recently signed contract, Shell would supply and deliver 6.5 million liters of engine lubricating oil to six Napocor plants located in the main power grid as well as to 62 smaller power plants and barges under Napocor's Small Power Utilities Group.

The lubricating oil would be transported to 68 delivery points, representing about 70 percent of Napocor's total lubricating oil requirement from this year to 2009.

Shell's previous lubricating oil supply contract with Napocor covered only 17 percent of its total requirements.

Power plants and barges included in Shell's contract are the Panay Diesel Power Plants 1 and 2; Power Barges 101, 102, and 103, all in Panay), and PB 104 in Davao City.

Before the award of this contract, Napocor held on March 23 a bidding for the supply and delivery of 9.27 million liters of engine lubricating oil to 137 delivery points. The approved budget for the entire supply was placed at P1.14 billion.

Apart from Shell, four other firms participated in the bidding: Petron Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc., PTT Philippines Corp. and Filpride Resources Inc.

Of the bidders, Chevron cornered the second biggest share of the total supply requirement, with a contract for 1.57 million liters of lubricating oil worth P125.54 million.

Petron secured a P112.7-million deal for 1.17 million liters, while PTT got P3.56-million contract for 36,490 liters of engine lubricating oil.

Philex gold, copper output hits P1B

By Amy R. Remo

PHILEX MINING CORP. SAID IT HAD produced about P1.04 billion worth of gold and copper last month.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philex chair and CEO Walter W. Brown said Philex delivered 817,870 dry metric tons of copper and gold ore to the Banget floatation facilities for treatment.

This resulted in some 6,754 dry metric tons of copper concentrates with 26.34 percent copper, 61.69 grams per dry metric ton of gold and 59.94 grams per dry metric ton of silver.

The estimated gross value of the output was based on provisional metal prices.

According to the disclosure, this lot contained 3.92 million pounds of copper, 13,407 ounces of gold and 13,017 ounces of silver.

The company's last shipment, made on June 30, carried 4,984 dry metric tons of copper concentrates worth P762 million. It contained about 2.9 million pounds of copper and 9,855 ounces of gold.

In March, Philex shipped P723 million worth of gold and copper.

The amount came from the sale of 5,025 dry metric tons of copper concentrates to L.D. Metals.

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIP

SEC OKs Aboitiz firms' merger

By Riza T. Olchondra

ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEMS CORP. IS well on its way to solidifying its supply chain management operations as it obtains government approval for the merger of subsidiaries Aboitiz One Inc. and Aboitiz Logistics Inc. (ALI).

ATS yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange that Aone would be the surviving entity, as approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Aone is a one-stop shop logistics solution and transportation services provider in the Philippines. It is engaged in the business of air, land and sea transportation, including the carrying and transporting of goods and cargo.

ALI provides various supply chain management and logistics services such as freight forwarding, container yard management, warehousing and distribution, as well as trucking.

ALI launches Pampanga project

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA LAND INC. (ALI) YESTERDAY launched its 46-hectare residential and mall development project in Angeles City, Pampanga.

The P2.6-billion project, dubbed Marquee Angeles City, will consist of a 35-hectare subdivision called 'Marquee Place' and a nine-hectare mall called 'Q Shopping.'

Of the project cost, P1.8 billion will be spent for the mall and P750 million will be used to develop a residential subdivision.

"The market (in Pampanga) is ready for this. You see BMW dealerships there, you see sophisticated wine shops and people (in Pampanga) are looking for a more cosmopolitan product. We felt that in terms of timing , we are facing a market that is ready for this," ALI president Jaime Ayala said.

Marquee is Ayala's first development project in the region that fully integrates an upscale residential community with a retail promise of an Ayala mall.

Community Innovations, a unit of ALI, will undertake the development of Marquee Place.

CII president Dan Abando said lot packages range from P8,000 to P11,000 per square meter or P2.4 million to P3.4 million per unit for 220- to 400-square meter lots.

Abando said that for the first phase of Marquee Place, CII has pre-sold 90 percent or 270 lots out of 300 lots offered. Another 300 lots will be offered in the next phase.

Q Shopping spans 70,000 square meters in gross leasable area for the mall and will open by the first half of 2009, Ayala said. It will offer a myriad of choices of local and international brands for shopping, dining and entertainment.

Marquee Angeles joins Ayala Land's first leisure project north of Manila, the Anvaya Cove in Bataan.

6-month budget . . .

From page B1

deficit to P63 billion this year and to post a balanced budget by next year.

He said the government would beef up its efforts to privatize state-owned assets, including the shares in San Miguel Corp. and Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp., to make up for the shortfalls in tax and duty collections by the BIR and the BOC.

The government expects to raise P50 billion from its 24-percent stake in SMC and another P50 billion from its remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC-EDC.

Teves earlier admitted that the failure of the BIR and the BOC to meet their collection goals in the first half has weakened the government's finances with no less than the economic recovery at stake.

In a speech on Monday, Teves exhorted the BIR's revenue district officers to redouble their efforts to collect more taxes or risk losing the business sector's newly found confidence.

"We have a very serious situation," he said. "We face a tremendous challenge."

Teves made his remarks at the induction ceremonies for new BIR officer in charge Lilian B. Hefti, who has taken over the reins of the government's biggest revenue agency after her predecessor, Jose Mario Buñag, was sacked for failing to meet collection goals in the first five months of 2007.

"Since the BIR accounts for more than 70 percent of government revenues, [its] collection performance is closely monitored not just by the financial markets domestically, but by international observers as well," he said.

The tax agency's shortfall has already pushed up the government's benchmark treasury bill rate during yesterday's auction. Banks bid up the rates in anticipation of greater demand for cash to fund the ambitious spending program of the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

While encouraging BIR officials to collect more taxes, the finance chief also took a swipe at the agency's declining efficiency, which became evident in the first half of the year, despite the boost provided by the Reformed Value-Added Tax law.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Coleman sends climbers to Everest

LEADING OUTDOOR INNOVATOR COLEMAN, continues to encourage people to "go outside" by sponsoring Mount Everest climbers from around the globe.

A Filipina team, two Malaysian groups, as well as an American schoolteacher all successfully scaled Everest this season with the help of Coleman's expert outdoor equipment.

Out to prove that the Filipino women can do it, the trio of Noelle Wenceslao, Carina Dayondon, and Janet Belarmino successfully reached the summit on May 16, 2007. The team took with them various Coleman products including tents and sleeping pads.

They are the first Filipino women and the first Southeast Asian women to conquer Mt. Everest.

"Naabot na ng Pinay ang tuktok ng mundo!".

This was Noelle Wenceslao's jubilant cry upon reaching the summit of the highest point in the world.

"We are not different from other Filipinas, we are normal Filipinas. We don't have special skills, special talents, or special anything. We just want to show that we are normal people, but we can dare to do something that seems impossible and we will make it possible," shares Wenceslao.

The 3 Pinays also set a second world record for being the first women in the world to ever traverse or cross the highest mountain in the world. This feat has only been accomplished by a handful, all of them male climbers.

From neighbouring Malaysia, T. Ravichandran announced he'll climb Everest from its south side this season with the support of Coleman's specialist equipment. Last year Ravichandran climbed the peak from the north side in aid of charity using Coleman tents, sleeping bags, lights and accessories for his training. He successfully reached the peak of Everest on May 20, 2007.

Also from Malaysia, Marina Ahmad, 25, became the first Malaysian woman to reach the summit of Everest. Together with five other members, the group reached the peak of Everest on May 21, 2007.

Meanwhile, an outdoor ambassador from the opposite side of the globe also took on the Everest adventure in support of the "nature deficit" among children.

Designed to motivate kids to get outdoors, the 2007 Coleman Everest 5.5 Challenge followed the expedition of Denver schoolteacher and veteran mountaineer, Mike Haugen.

Haugen took to Everest a variety of technical Coleman Exponent products including stoves, lanterns, tents, and mummy sleeping bags made for extreme environments. Mike Haugen successfully reached the summit on May 20, 2007.

High up in the tallest peak in the world, battered by harsh winds and snow, Coleman products stood up to its reputation of being the outdoor equipment that's unbelievably tough.

Together with Coleman, these individuals from opposite sides of the globe have successfully reached the top of the world.

Coleman is exclusively distributed by Focus Global Inc located at Pioneer cor. Reliance Sts. Mandaluyong City. Tel no. 634-8587.

TM, JULIE'S BAKESHOP INK PARTNERSHIP

Touch Mobile (TM), the country's fastest growing GSM brand, in cooperation with Globe's distributor, Paysetter International Inc, signed an agreement with the number one food franchising company, Julie's Bakeshop for a new and exciting promo that will reward their customers. Starting July, Julie's Bakeshop in cooperation with TM, launches a new promo wherein customers can get free TM SIM worth P59 when they buy P25 worth of bread and P25 load on the free SIM at any/participating Julie's outlet. The promo will run in three phases. The initial launch will be in GMA, then Luzon and Visayas/Mindanao for the month of August and September respectively. The promo will be participated in by Julie's more than 300 outlets nationwide. Shown during the contract signing are, seated from left, Paysetter International's CEO Eugene Enriquez, Globe consumer business group head Ferdz dela Cruz, and Julie's Franchise Corp chair Bobby Gandianco. Standing from left, Globe's segment business head, Joey Contreras and Julie's Franchise Corp president/COO Nonoy Espeleta.

HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA HOLDS FIRE DRILL

All employees of the Heritage Hotel as well as its Rescue and Volunteer Team participated in a fire drill for the hotel's Fire Prevention and Disaster Preparedness Program while key members of the Pasay City Fire Station and Department of Tourism witnessed the activity. Shown in photo (from left): inspector Leo Andiso, Pasay City Fire Station; Ariel Galicia, engineer, Heritage Hotel; chief Roel Jeremy Diaz, fire marshal, Pasay City Fire Station; Raul Santiago, chief engineer, Heritage Hotel; Grazie Magsalin, director of human resources, Heritage Hotel; Eddie Yeo, general manager, Heritage Hotel, inspector Blando, Pasay City Fire Station; Jeffrey Piedad, tourism officer, Department of Tourism; and Romina Gervacio, marketing communications manager, Heritage Hotel.

Filipina creativity brings home the gold

A PRINT CAMPAIGN CREATED BY A FILIPINA creative team has won its most impressive award to date: a coveted Gold Statue in the Clio Awards, a "singular benchmark of creative excellence worldwide." Y&R's executive creative director, Leigh Reyes, flew to Miami to accept the award on stage at the historic Jackie Gleason Auditorium in South Beach, Florida, USA.

Y&R's public service print ads for Soroptimist International of Malaysia, continue to garner accolades in the world's preeminent (and toughest) advertising competitions. The campaign vividly contrasts violent inventions created by men with non-violent inventions created by women. To date, the work has been recognized with a Gold and Silver in the World Press Awards, In-Book status in D&AD and Finalist status in The One Show and Asia's Media Spikes. The campaign is also an entry to the Cannes Advertising Festival, whose results will be announced mid-June.

Y&R Philippines and Y&R Malaysia joined forces to bring the campaign to life. Soroptimist Worldwide, a volunteer organization of women working to improve the lives of women and girls around the world, launched an anti-violence initiative in 2006. Soroptimist International Region of Malaysia approached Y&R Malaysia for help. When shown the campaign (an effort across three Y&R offices, including Singapore), they lent it their full support.

The creative team, Leigh Reyes and 3sha Uy (associate art director) is the same one behind another award-winning public service ad for Concordia Children's Services, which took home two golds from the 2006 London International Advertising Awards and made it to the Clio shortlist in 2007.

In the past three years, Y&R has received recognition from its peers in the advertising industry and its own clients. United Laboratories (Unilab) holds the Rave awards for its partners annually, and Y&R has been awarded a Special Citation, Best Accounts Team and Best Creative Team on separate occasions in the past two years. Industry awards include the Ad Congress Araw Awards, the Creative Guild Ad of the Year Awards, Asia-Pacific Adfest and Media Spikes.

Y&R Philippines' president and CEO Chiqui Lara says, "Winning the Philippines' first Gold Clio is fantastic. It's also positively inspiring. Seen from a wider perspective, it says Philippine creative talent is right up there with the best the world has to offer. This is the same world-class talent working for our clients' brands every day." She continues, "Y&R Philippines is no stranger to work that empowers women. In fact, five out of the six members of our Management Committee are women. The Soroptimist campaign is a golden example of the power of women working together to make a difference in the world."

SAVE FUEL, SAVE THE PLANET

A breakthrough liquid fuel performance enhancing additive which promises to save you fuel and save the planet by improving performance from gasoline, diesel or bio-diesel fuels while reducing global-warming emissions was recently launched at the Le Pavillon, Roxas Boulevard. Themed 'Save Fuel, Save the Planet,' the grand launch of fuel additive Ultimate ME2 featured a 1950s gas diner setup with a mini motorshow of vintage cars, live product demos, and audiovisuals of product testimonials. Throughout the evening, car enthusiasts and other guests enjoyed heavy cocktails and music spanning the 50s to the 70s. Headquartered at Unit GFC-2A, Classica Condominium, HV dela Costa, Salcedo Village, Makati and with web address at www.ultimateme2.com, local marketing firm Orientrends Inc got the exclusive right to market and distribute the product in the Philippines from US-based Essentially Yours Industries International Limited (EYI Int'l), an integrated marketing company offering an extensive line of cutting-edge, quality products. Shown in photo flanked by (from left) Orientrends director Rommel Panganiban and president Raul Bautista, and the models dressed as 50s gas-station diner waitresses, is EYI Int'l president and CEO Dori James O'Neill.

BITS & Clips

Costa D' Oro's Olivero at Wofex

FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS COSTA D'ORO SPA has been a leading company in the olive oil and vegetable oils sector. Costa D' Oro's Olivero will just be one of the over 700 products to be displayed at the forthcoming World's Food Expo (Wofex) 2007, the 7th International Exposition on Worldwide Food, Beverage, Technology and Machinery slated Aug. 1 - 4, at the World Trade Center, Manila, Philippines. Wofex 2007 is the country's biggest and most effective food event and will be the ultimate food show experience of the year. For more information call Premier Events Plus Group Inc at (632)929-7993 or 63, 436-4209 and 426-9603, e-mail: info@PEPGroup.com, website: www.wofex.com.

Design your Tamagotchi V4

TAMAGOTCHI CRAZE IS BACK WITH ITS LATEST VERSION, THE TAMAGOTCHI V4, that allows the players to control the future of their virtual pets by playing mini games and going to school to earn virtual skill points which can be used to choose a job like rock star, fashion designer, doctor and much more. Ever dreamt of playing with your self-designed Tamagotchi? This July, Bandai, the makers of Tamagotchi Connection, will make it possible for lucky Tamagotchi enthusiasts who will also win up to P10,000 worth of Bandai and Tamagotchi items. Log on to www.bankee.com.ph or www.kzone.com.ph for design contest mechanics. Tamagotchi Version 4 design contest is open to all enthusiasts from 6 to 18 years old. Deadline of submission of entries is on July 22. Judging will be held on July 29 at the Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

July Home Sale from Sunnex

THIS JULY, GRAB THE CHANCE TO OWN COVETED SUNNEX COOKWARE AND stainless steel items through a special Home Sale exclusively in partnership with Robinsons Department Stores. Enjoy up to 25 percent off on all regular items. An array of other discounts abound as well. Catering and serviceware items are marked 10 percent off, while food carriers are 40 percent off. Whistling kettles are specially marked down by 15 percent. Sunnex plain-bottom cookware series are marked with 30 percent discount, while plain-bottom Camelia, Carnation, and Marigold cookware sets come with as much as 40 percent discount. Specially marked items such as SX0003 (3 quart glass top chafing dish) can be availed of at a packaged price of P2,000 each. Kinox chicken fryer will be yours for only P3,900 for a set of 3. To top the sale off, buyers can even avail of value-added and exciting freebies on selected items. Receive free jelly fuel for every purchase of Sunnex chafing dish, or enjoy a kilogram of mouth-watering chocolate buttons to use in every purchase of Sunnex chocolate fountain set. Hurry to the nearest Robinsons Department Store Homelines, promo runs from July 1 to 31 only.

Peda holds national confab

THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION DEANS ASSOCIATION (PEDA) HOLDS A NATIONAL Conference on Best Practices in Education on July 7, at the Escaler Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. The one-day conference is open to education deans, associate/assistant deans, department heads and faculty. The aims of the conference are to: share best practices in curriculum and instruction, research and development, faculty development, ICT in education, outreach programs, resource generation, student welfare, personnel management, and institutional linkages; forge and strengthen institutional linkages and recommend ways to improve teacher education practices in the country. The conference is endorsed by CHED. For details, call Brenda, at 929-9322 or e-mail peda06@gmail.com.

Fly to a European castle with M&M's and Shrek

IN SUPPORT OF THE MOVIE SHREK THE THIRD, M&M'S IS GIVING YOU A chance to win a 6-days, 5-nights stay in a European castle in M&M's Enchanted Getaway Promo. There are two ways to join, first one is through SMS - simply buy specially marked packs of M&M's Chocolate Candies from participating establishments. Each pack will have a sticker with a unique alphanumeric raffle code printed on it. To join the promo, text MMSHREK RAFFLE CODE and send to 2366 for Globe, Kapamilya Sim, Touch Mobile, Sun Cellular, Smart, Addict Mobile and Talk & Text subscribers. To validate your entry, you have to register once by texting MMSHREK REG NAME/AGE/GENDER/ADDRESS and send to 2366. Registration is free of charge. Don't forget that your M&M's Chocolate wrappers with the stickers must be kept and shall be presented for verification purposes in order to claim the prize. The second way to join is through mail - simply mail empty M&M's wrappers that do not have stickers together with your Name, Address, Contact Number, Age and Signature to Master Foods Philippines Inc, 11th Floor Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas Makati, 1226. Promo will run from May 15 to July 31. The draws will be held on July 2 and Aug. 3. All entries are cumulative. Non-winning entries will qualify for the succeeding draws so you have more chances of winning. Winners will receive a call with accompanying instructions on how to claim their prize. Please see leaflets and print ads for full details.

Manila Water implements P350 million service enhancement program for Mandaluyong

MANILA WATER COMPANY INC has embarked on a P350-million service enhancement program in Mandaluyong City designed to ensure not only uninterrupted supply of safe and clean water, but also to greatly improve public sanitation in the city.

The service enhancement program caps Manila Water's city-wide pipe-laying and mainline replacement operation launched in 2002. Water supply networks are still being laid at West Greenhills, Boni Avenue, P. Cruz Street, Shaw Boulevard, and the northbound and southbound portions of Edsa.

Already completed is the P355-million Kalentong Line Project that boosted water supply to the higher portions of Mandaluyong, and the replacement of more than 94 kilometers of pipes within the city. Completion of these projects resulted to 24-hour water supply to the barangays of Pleasant Hills, Mauway, Buwayang Bato, Barangka Itass, Julo, Namayan, Mabini, J. Rizal, Pag-asa, Harapin ang Bukas, Burol, Hagdang Bato Itaas and Vergara.

Since 1997, Manila Water has spent P624 million for various service improvement projects in the city which resulted in greater public access to high-pressure, 24-hour water supply covering 100 percent of the city's households and offices, along with service institutions such as schools, hospitals, markets, orphanages and even the jails.

At the same time, the company attained significant reduction in system's losses, with the water recovered now being channeled to the formerly low pressure areas of the city.

More than 50 projects under Manila Water's flagship "Tubig Para sa Barangay" or Water for the Community program have been completed for the low-income communities.

Sewerage and sanitation services have also been intensified in the city. The Mandaluyong Medium Rise Housing was one of the beneficiaries of the Manila Second Sewerage Project (MSSP) - Community Sanitation Project, implemented in coordination with the National Housing Authority.

Over the next five years, Manila Water will expand its sewerage and sanitation program for Mandaluyong. This includes the construction of a sewage treatment plant along the banks of the Pasig River. Corollary to this, Manila Water's "Sanitasyon Para Sa Barangay" or Community Sanitation Program involving free desludging of household septic tanks was shifted to high gear.

Prior to the privatization of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in 1997, Mandaluyong was struggling with low and insufficient water supply, with only five of its 27 barangays having faucet water on limited basis.

The city's pipe networks were very old and leaking, giving rise to incidence of water-borne diseases. Such health problems were particularly prevalent in the depressed communities of Welfareville, Pag-asa and Nueve de Pebrero.

SURIGAO STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
Narciso Street. Surigao City
Tel. No. 231-7798 / Telefax No. (086) 826-6346

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The SURIGAO STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, Surigao City, is inviting interested bidders (TYPE "A" CONTRACTOR) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the herein under contract:

Name of the Project : Construction of 5-Storey Commercial/Engineering Bldg. (Phase 1)
Project Location : Narciso Street, Surigao City (SSCT Campus)
Approved Budget : Php41,900,000.00
Fund Source : Agency Income
Contract Duration : 420 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

All particulars relative to the bidding process (from Eligibility Check up to the Award of the Contract) and implementation of the project shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and applicable Annexes.

The schedule of activities are as follows:

1. Receipt of Letter of Intent from bidders	July 23-31, 2007, Office of BAC Chairman, SSCT, Surigao City
2. Eligibility check	August 1, 2007 at EMRC, SSCT, Surigao City
3. Issuance of notice of results of eligibility check	August 2, 2007
4. Issuance of bid documents to eligible bidders with a non-refundable fee of Php40,000.00/eligible bidder	August 6-15, 2007 at SSCT, Surigao City
5. Site Inspection: Prospective bidders must have to secure bid documents first before joining the site inspection.	August 20, 2007; 8:00 AM Site inspection will be guided by the College Resident Engineer
6. Pre-Bid Conference	August 21, 2007, 8:00 AM at EMRC, SSCT
7. Dropping and Opening of Bids All bids must be accompanied by a BID Security in the form of Cash, Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of Php209,500.00 (5% of ABC) or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.	September 3, 2007 at exactly 10:00 AM at EMRC, SSCT, Surigao City Campus

The Surigao State College of Technology assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. The college reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defects therein, or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to SSCT.

(Sgd.) ECCLESIASTES T. DUMANIG
BAC Chairman

(PDI–July 5 & 12, 2007)

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ProductFILES

Tang with Fruitrition

WITH ITS COMMITMENT TO HELP people around the world eat and live better, Kraft Foods Philippines is promoting a nutritious beverage among families with the all new Tang Fruitrition product line. Select nutrients found in natural fruit juices are now in the Filipinos' favorite powdered drink, but still with a price that is easy on the budget. Enjoy the benefits of vitamins A, B2, B3, B6, C, Folate and Iron in every glass of Tang. Vitamin A promotes good eye sight, vitamin B helps release energy from food, vitamin C keeps skin, teeth and gums healthy, Iron builds healthy blood, while Folate promotes proper growth. Available in Orange, Mangga, Sweet Ponkan, Pineapple and Iced Tea flavors, family get-together are more exciting with Tang's refreshing taste. And as adults enjoy their fun source of vitamins, Tang with Fruitrition can help kids grow up healthy and strong. Bibong-bibo. With regular glass of Tang with Fruitrition, healthy-bibo kids are all set to conquer the world. Available at all leading supermarkets nationwide.

IT'S TIME FOR THE ULTIMATE UPGRADE!

Our company is the newest concept in lifestyle experiential living with the most exciting marketing platform ever created; **TREI**.

TREi is a lifestlye membership club that offers a variety of experiences through a synergy of high-end premium products and services that cater to the young, upwardly mobile emerging A, entrepreneurs and professionals.

Set to launch very soon, we invite candidates to be part of our formidable team.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICERS

(full-time)

If you are:

- ☑ Hip
- ☑ Aggressive
- ☑ A Go-Getter
- ☑ Experienced in Sales or Accounts Management (fresh graduates are also encouraged to apply)

LIFESTYLE SALES HEADS

(part-time)

If you have:

- ☑ A vast personal and business network
- ☑ An entrepreneurial spirit and business management experience
- ☑ Previous sales experience preferably in the fields of real estate, (high-end projects), Car sales, Insurance, Pharmaceutical or Direct Selling industries
- ☑ An existing business that requires constant inter-action with the upscale market

or if you just enjoy talking to people and you want to have FUN while earning on a part-time basis

THEN JOIN US AS WE REDEFINE THE GOOD LIFE!

Help us get to know you better. Please send a comprehensive resumé to **resume_mytrei@yahoo.com.ph**

1936

National Power Corporation

July 4, 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SPUG Diesel Power Expansion Project, Cluster 5, Polillo DPP (Re-bidding)

The National Power Corporation (NPC) invites all potential Bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the SPUG Diesel Power Expansion Project, Cluster 5 (Schedule 16 – 2 x 500 kW Polillo Diesel Power Plant). The source of funds for the Contract to be Bid shall come from the corporate budget of NPC.

Bidding will be conducted thru open competitive bidding procedure as specified in the IRR of R.A. 9184 and is restricted to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Bidders must have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall include, but not limited to, site development where required, erection/installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical equipment for 2 x 500 kW Diesel Generating sets and auxilanes including supply of Balance-of-Plant (BOP).

Interested Bidders shall secure the eligibility documents at the **Bids and Contracts Services Department** (BCSD), Ground Floor, NPC Building, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104 with Telefax No. (632) 922-1622 upon presentation of Letter of Intent and current Contractor's License.

The Eligibility and Bidding requirements and schedule of activities are as follows:

Contract Number – LVMP05A016Sel	
APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT : P 42,203,000.00	
PCAB Registration Particulars	At least "Medium A" – Building & Industrial Plant
Issuance of Eligibility Documents	July 5, 2007 at the BCSD, NPC Head Office
Submission of Eligibility Documents	July 19, 2007, 9:30 AM at Panagbenga Room, NPC Diliman, Q.C.
Issuance of Bidding Documents	August 1, 2007 at the BCSD, NPC Head Office
Pre-bid Conference	August 9, 2007, 9:30 AM at Pahiyas Room, NPC Diliman, Q.C.
Submission and Opening of Bids	August 21, 2007, 9:30 AM at Pahiyas Room, NPC Solarium
Contract Duration	One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days
Cost of Eligibility Documents	P 1,500.00 (Non-refundable)
Cost of Bidding Documents	P 10,000.00 (Non-refundable)

Note : Previously eligible bidders need not apply for eligibility, however, they must submit Letter of Intent to participate in the bidding stage.

Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria prescribed in the eligibility documents. Only Bidders who passed the eligibility check can purchase the Bidding documents. **Pursuant to GPPB Resolution No. 22-2206, prospective bidders should register with PhilGEPS and secure the corresponding Certificate of Registration.**

NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN CARLOS J. GUADARRAMA**
Vice President and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 5, 2007)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Manpower Services- PMO 07-2007)

The Privatization and Management Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (PMO-BAC), intends to apply the amount of **TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY FOUR AND 92/100 (P2,256,784.92)** from the General Appropriations Act being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for Manpower Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

The PMO-BAC now invites G-EPS registered companies/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for Manpower Services for contract duration of one (1) year.

Bid documents will be available starting 29 June 2007, Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the 4th Floor PMO-BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (P 5,600.00)** in cash to the PMO Cashier located at the 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

The PMO-BAC will conduct its **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested bidders on **13 July 2007, Friday at 10:00 a.m.**, 6th floor Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Advanced Eligibility Check shall be on **12 July 2007, Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** at the 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Bid Opening shall be on 26 July 2007, Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC
1. Cash, cashier's check or manager's check; *OR*	One percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One & a half percent (1 ½%)

The PMO-BAC shall not compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Moreover, the **PMO-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, waive any formality in the bid requirements, declare the bidding a failure without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders, or award the contract to the bidders whose offer is the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid** and most advantageous to the Government.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-7096/817-8762
Fax No. 893-2290

Approved by:
CRISANTA S. LEGASPI
Deputy Privatization Officer and Chairperson, PMO-BAC

(PDI--June 29 & July 5, 2007)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513436 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF ENTRANCE & DOOR SIGNAGES FOR PEZA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES
(PEZA-HO-2007-05)

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of One Million Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Pesos Only (P1,088,300.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Installation of Entrance and Door Signages for the PEZA Special Economic Zones. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following GOODS:

PARTICULARS	QUANTITY
Entrance Signages (3.5' x 6' aluminum plate gauge #16 Aluminum post 2" diameter, Sch #40; double posts (silver color), reflectorized sticker; including installation (12mm bars, cement, sand, gravel, welding rod, 1½" GI pipe or angular bar)	34 pcs.
Door Signages (5" - 6.5" letter height (variable depending on the number of plates required); Polish brass plates, gauge #16 Size: 24" x 32" with metal etching including installation	41 pcs.

3. Delivery and installation of the GOODS is required within ninety (90) working days from the date receipt of the Notice to Proceed. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB**.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The cotnract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and at least five (5) years experience in the supply and installation of signages.
6. In addition, bidders must have filed their **latest annual income and business tax returns** (VAT and/or Percentage Taxes covering six (6) months immediately prior to the submission of bids) via the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.
7. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the addrress given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
8. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 05 - 13 July 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays from the address below upon submission of a certified copy of their PhilGEPS Registration Certificate and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
9. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 17 July 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
10. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 31 July 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
11. Bid opening shall be on 31 July 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg. III Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
12. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
13. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
E-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

(PDI - July 5, 2007)

WANTED

SUPERVISOR
• Female, 27-40 years old

BOOKKEEPER
SECRETARY
• Female, 24-35 years old

Apply personally with your resumé and certificate of previous employment at:

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MOBILE: (09173042872/09173042867)
E-mail: norsamelco_catarman2007@yahoo.com
FAX #: (055)2518163

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NORTHERN SAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (NORSAMELCO) invites all interested suppliers to participate in a Public Bidding for the following:

Item No.	Description	
1	Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of one (1) unit Brand New 10 MVA Sub-Station, including MV protection, metering, grounding and others (excluding LV. switch gear)	1 lot

Bid Documents maybe obtained at the office of the PBAC, secretary, during office hours starting **July 17 to August 6, 2007** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php7,000.00. Interested bidders must submit their pre-qualification documents, as follows:

1. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
2. SEC or DTI Registration as appropriate
3. BIR VAT Certificate
4. Audited Financial Statement for the current year duly received by the BIR
5. Business Permit for the Current Year
6. List of similar contract awarded (*min. of 5 years*)
7. Technical capabilities to handle the contract

Receipt of Letter of Intent	July 17, 2007
Receipt of pre-qualification documents	July 18-24, 2007
Issuance of Notice of Illegibility	July 24-30, 2007

Sealed proposals from eligible bidders will be received by the PBAC on **September 4, 2007** at 2:00 p.m. at NORSAMELCO main office conference room. A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 7, 2007** at 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash or manager's check in the amount equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

Bidders shall bid for the whole package. Partial bids will be rejected.

This invitation is open to all suppliers from eligible source countries who purchased a complete set of bidding documents, submitted all the pre-qualification documents mentioned in the ADVERTISEMENT and have been duly accredited and notified by the NORTHERN SAMAR Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The NORSAMELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein or to accept such bid as maybe considered most advantageous and responsive to the NORSAMELCO.

(Sgd.) **SALVADOR HERNANDEZ**
General Manager

(Sgd.) **NILO ESTOPA**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 5, 9 & 13, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Petitioner,

- versus -

SSC Case No.5-16586-06

MARY OF CARMEL ACADEMY, INC. and MSGR. MANUEL B. VILLAROMAN, BIENVENIDA R. DE JESUS, ANASTACIO R. DELA CRUZ, ADORACION R. DELA CRUZ and SENANDO R. DELA CRUZ, in their capacity as Members of the Board of Directors,
Respondents.

x - x

SUMMONS

MS. BIENVENIDA R. DE JESUS
Dear Born, Michigan
U.S.A.

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Rufino (formerly Herrera) Street, Makati City, your Answer to the Petition filed by petitioner Social Security System which found out that Mary of Carmel Academy, Inc. was delinquent in the remittance of SS contributions in favor of its employees.

You are further required to **serve a copy of your Answer upon the petitioner** through its counsel Atty. Gerardo M.S. Jacobo, SSS Tarlac City Branch Office, Macabulos Drive, Tarlac City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or *motu-proprio*, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence *ex-parte* and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, **June 5, 2007**

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI – July 5, 2007)

OBITUARIES

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that day..."
2 Timothy 4:7-8

SEGUNDO VALTE INFANTADO, JR.

now peacefully rests in the Infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 4th of July 2007 at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife, **Carolina Hosaka Infantado** and only child **Corinna** and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremains lie in state at Chapel A-1, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Inurnment will be on Saturday, July 7, 2007 at La Loma Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

BUSINESS

Phoenix raises ₱355M from sale of shares

Petroleum product distributor to list shares on July 11

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PETROLEUM PRODUCT DISTRIBUTOR Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. has raised P355 million from the sale of its shares.

The public offering paves the way for the listing of its shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange next week, sources familiar with the deal said in an interview.

Phoenix Petroleum started selling a portion of its shares to retail investors last June 27.

The distributor sold a total of 36.25 million common shares—or 29 million new shares and 7.25 million secondary shares or those held by current shareholders - at P9.80 each.

"The market is still looking for good issues and it will be selecting where to invest, specially for the next large issues," Banco de Oro Capital & Investment Corp. president Eduardo Francisco said.

BDO Capital & Investment Corporation is the issue manager and sole underwriter for the offering.

Phoenix Petroleum trades refined petroleum products, lubricants and other chemical products.

It also operates oil depots and storage facilities, mainly in Southern Philippines.

The Davao-based company's products and services are distributed under the "Phoenix Fuels Life" brand.

Phoenix Petroleum opened its first gas station in June 2005 in Davao del Sur.

Today, it has more than 20 retail service stations.

By end of this year, 30 more will be added, bringing the total "Phoenix Petroleum" retail service stations to 50, the company had said.

Francisco said that local small investor demand for the company's shares was strong or four times oversubscribed.

As a result, underwriters will conduct a process prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) called "balloting," whereby an investor has a one-in-four chance of getting an allocation.

Those not selected during the balloting will get refunds, Francisco said.

The balloting will be done in the presence of representatives from the PSE, SEC and an external auditor.

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Philip Morris puts up $20-M warehouse

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CIGARETTE MANUFACTURER PHILIP Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. is investing $20 million in a warehouse in Subic that will store tobacco leaves from various plantations in the region.

Armand C. Arreza, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority administrator, said a two-year contract with PMPMI was signed last week, covering an existing warehouse.

"The investment would go to the rehabilitation of the structure as well as the technology to control the humidity and temperature," Arreza said.

"It is going to be practically a giant humidor," said Arreza, referring to the humidity-controlled case used to store cigars.

He said the warehouse was scheduled for turnover to PMPMI on Aug. 1, but that he does not know how long it would take to upgrade the facility and make it suitable for tobacco storage.

Arreza added that PMPMI was looking for a suitable site for a planned regional storage hub for leaf tobacco, for which the company was prepared to spend $80 million.

"Subic is competing with a possible site in Singapore, but we hope that this new investment provides an advantage," he said.

"If this small warehouse would turn out a good facility, it would only need to be expanded to make a supply hub," he added.

In another development, Arreza warned that former officials of the Subic Bay Golf and Country Club Inc. were issuing "misleading information" to elicit sympathy from Taiwanese investors and the general public.

"They are disseminating statements which are either incorrect or incomplete in a desperate move to keep the media and public's focus away from the real issues that led to the SBMA's takeover of the golf course facility in 1997," Arreza said.

He said the takeover was mainly due to the former operator's failure to pay over $17 million in rental fees as of March 31, 2007.

Arreza added that Universal International Group (UIG), which operated the club, failed to settle obligations amounting to over $12 million as of October 2005.

He said other undelivered obligations include the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the golf course into a first class international course in accordance with USGA standards, and the construction of a new first class club house, 100-room condominium, 30 villas and five-star hotel resort.

"Further improvements in the golf course which remain undelivered are the construction of additional nine holes to the course, construction of floodlighting for additional nine holes and the construction of additional 200 villas, which were secured by a performance guaranty of $1.5 million," Arreza said.

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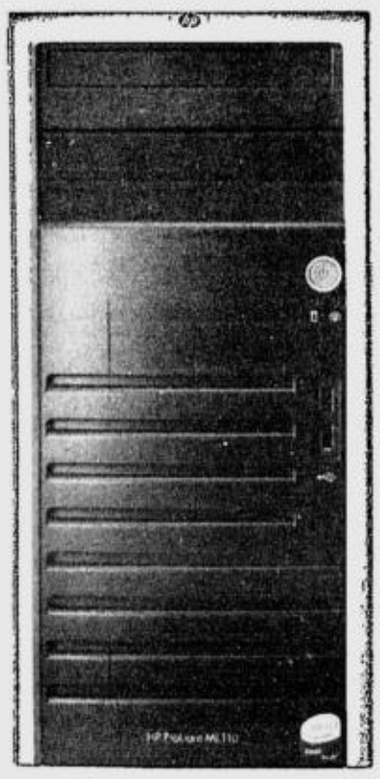

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Cooking gas prices to decline, DOE says

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY expects cooking gas prices to go down soon, following the drop in the international contract price of liquefied petroleum gas by $17 a metric ton this month.

According to DOE data, the international contract price of LPG went down to only $589 a metric ton in July from $606 a MT in June.

In response, bulk supplier Liquigaz would cut LPG prices by 55 centavos a kilogram at 12:01 a.m. today.

"I welcome the move of Liquigaz for immediately implementing a rollback in its LPG prices. We hope that oil majors and other independent players will immediately follow the lead of Liquigaz," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in a statement yesterday.

Since the start of the year, LPG prices have gone up five times for a total of P3.36 a kilo, but have also gone down four times for a total of P2.24 a kilo, including VAT.

International prices remained volatile, however, Lotilla said.

In a related development, the DOE urged consumers to buy their LPG only from authorized dealers and retail outlets, to prevent LPG-related accidents from taking place.

He said those bought from illegal refillers—or those that did not conform with safety standards and did not have safety features—could cause damage to property, injuries and even death.

"Prices of crude and other petroleum products, including LPG, in the international market are very volatile. It is only right that consumers get their money's worth in buying these products, most especially LPG," he said.

He also urged the LPG Industry Association, Confederation of LPG Refillers, LPG Refillers Association and the LPG Marketers Association to ensure that their respective members are not engaged in any malpractice such as underfilling, use of substandard LPG tanks and tampering of cylinders.

Study on Aboitiz Subic coal plant due in Q3

ABOITIZ POWER CORP. EXpects the feasibility study on a coal-fired power plant to be completed within the year.

Aboitiz Power plans to put up the plant in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone together with Taiwan Co-Generation International Corp.

According to the preliminary prospectus for the company's share offering, the plant would have an installed capacity of between 150 megawatts (MW) and 300 MW.

The project would be implemented by Redondo Peninsula Energy Inc., a joint venture company between Aboitiz Power and Taiwan Co-Generation.

Just last February, Aboitiz Power entered into a memorandum of agreement with Taiwan Co-Generation for the conduct of a feasibility study on the project.

"Under the terms of the agreement, the parties agree to form a joint venture company to implement the project in the event it is determined to be feasible, in which case the joint venture company will build, own and operate the proposed power plant, with each party owning 50 percent of the joint venture company," the prospectus stated.

"Future equity participants in the joint venture company may be allowed, with the equity interests of each party being equally diluted by the entry of any new equity participant," it added.

All project development costs for the proposed power plant would be split evenly between Aboitiz Power and Taiwan Co-Generation.

Taiwan Co-Generation in July 2006 entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to reserve for two years a 20-hectare lot to be used as the site for the proposed plant and another 10-hectare lot to be used as an ash pond.

These parcels of land would be leased at an agreed rate of $3.50 a square meter for 50 years, to be paid in 10 equal five-year installments.

The first installment would be paid upon the signing of any lease agreement with SBMA.

The joint venture did not cite any particular date for the actual implementation of the project.

Abigail L. Ho

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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CHEF Rodelio Aglibot

BEEF (tartar) *kinilaw* on pan-fried rice cakes with Asian pesto

Fil-Am chef interprets Filipino food

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

MY FRIEND WHO WRITES for a Filipino magazine in San Francisco says next time I am there, I should interview Fil-Am chefs who are making waves in the West Coast.

I will have to write her that one of them was here recently and cooked for a week at Red in Shangri-La Makati.

Los Angeles-based chef Rodelio Aglibot's name makes him undeniably Filipino. He was born here but was brought to Hawaii at age one by his immigrant parents. He visited often until he was 12 then did not come home for several years. But his family always ate Filipino food.

At Red, there was a separate menu for his cooking and the very first appetizer made me curious right away. But the words "tartar of beef *kilawin*" also turned on my "fusion" warning signs.

Fusion has become a bad word ever since too inexperienced cooks tried to pass off their attempts at being trendy as fusing cuisine. What you mostly get is a confusing mix of flavors and ingredients that don't meld.

When the order came, it was beef tartar all right in reddish mounds on top of rice that looked like *suman sa lihiya* because of the greenish tint.

It was topped by a concoction called Asian pesto, chopped ginger and lemon grass, perhaps some lime zest.

The rice was pan-fried according to the menu and when Aglibot arrived, I told him its texture was like fried *suman sa ibos* and how it went well with the beef *kilawin*. He said the original recipe had tuna tartar but when he tried beef, it worked.

Pinoy 'satay'

We had another beef as appetizer. Beef *inihaw* was skewered and he called it Filipino *satay*. It came with lettuce leaves making it more Vietnamese. The dipping sauce was a mix of *calamansi* and pepper. If it were to be Filipino, the sauce should have been thick and sweeter or, to be true to its *satay* billing, it should have the reddish tomato sauce of Jolo *satti*.

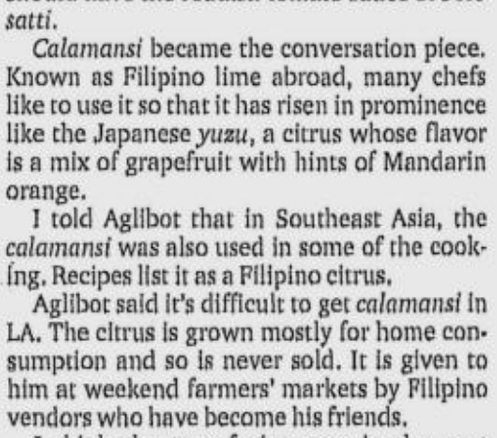
Calamansi became the conversation piece. Known as Filipino lime abroad, many chefs like to use it so that it has risen in prominence like the Japanese *yuzu*, a citrus whose flavor is a mix of grapefruit with hints of Mandarin orange.

I told Aglibot that in Southeast Asia, the *calamansi* was also used in some of the cooking. Recipes list it as a Filipino citrus.

Aglibot said it's difficult to get *calamansi* in LA. The citrus is grown mostly for home consumption and so is never sold. It is given to him at weekend farmers' markets by Filipino vendors who have become his friends.

I think the true fusion was in the next dish—seared *foie gras* served on a rice pudding with *gata* and some caramelized mango on the side. The rice pudding had a consistency as smooth as *tibok-tibok*, the Pampango *maja blanca*, so it melted in the mouth with the liver.

FIL-AM CHEF/ C3



"RED" crusted roasted sea bass

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BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY
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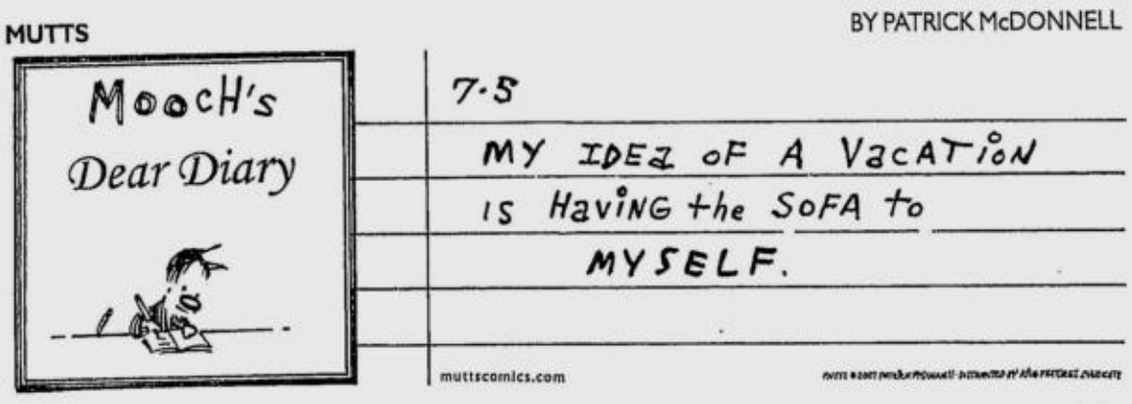


LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

ISANG PARI NA GALING SA "CONGREGATION FOR THE CAUSES OF SAINTS" ANG IPINADALA SA PILIPINAS PARA IMBESTIGAHAN ANG VALIDITY NG ISANG MILAGRO NA NANGYARI DITO

KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

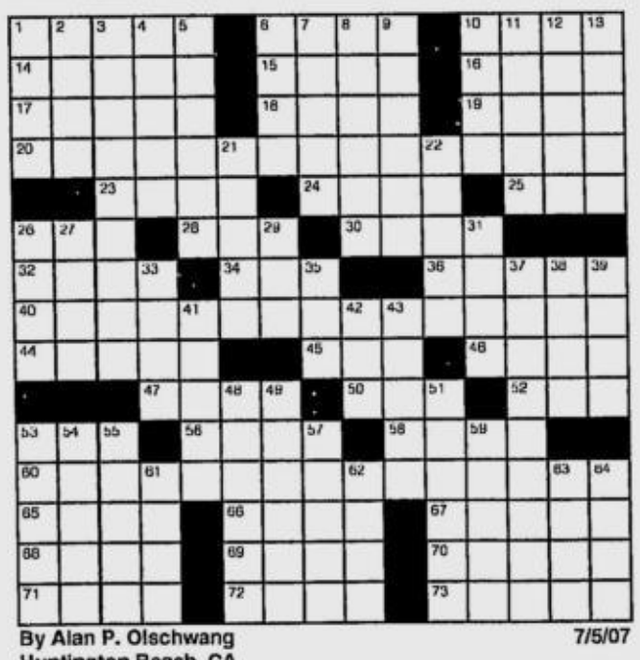
TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Animal with two feet
6 Love handles
10 Pitcher's faux pas
14 Merge
15 __ of the party
16 Andy Griffith's TV son
17 Holy water basin
18 Taj Mahal site
19 Service branch
20 Start of quip
23 Bristle
24 Stadium level
25 Wordless yes
26 Possess
28 Tex. campus
30 Dull
32 Dregs
34 Notable time
36 Flavorful
40 Part 2 of quip
44 Fiery felony
45 Titleist supporter
46 Listen up!
47 __ Oreille Lake
50 Highlands hat
52 Feel bad about
53 Good times
56 Backdoor
58 Reddish brown color
60 End of quip
65 Pelvic pieces
66 Same as mentioned
67 Queeg's ship
68 Cavil
69 Blow to a wrist
70 Modify
71 Crafts' partner
72 Dame Myra
73 Wears down

DOWN
1 Working all the time
2 Division word
3 Reverence
4 Musical study
5 Bus stations
6 Apartment in London
7 Illuminate
8 Intimidated
9 Cleaver of TV
10 Gravy or tug follower
11 Chef's protector
12 Bar dance
13 Used push-buttons
21 Designated
22 Muse of poetry
26 Texas crock
27 2003 Masters champion
29 Mentalist Geller
31 Big party
33 Telegraphic period
35 Pismire
37 Darker of complexion
38 By way of, briefly
39 Coupling device
41 Febrero preceder
42 Sopping
43 Valentine shape
48 Rather original
49 Drag one's feet
51 Capital of Oman
53 City on the Erie Canal
54 Like the Antarctic
55 Give a near miss to
57 Ostrich kin
59 Hindu teacher
61 Siestas
62 Current units, for short
63 Beheaded Boleyn
64 Lewis and Knight



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
7/5/07

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	T	A	R		P	O	O	P		P	L	A	N
P	E	A	L	E		A	L	M	A		R	A	R	E
B	A	R	E	D		L	A	I	T		E	D	I	E
	H	O	R	S	E	O	F	T	H	E	Y	E	A	R
			T	E	N		S	O	D					
M	A	P		A	D	O	S		S	I	E	N	N	A
I	C	E	S		E	R	A	S		T	R	O	O	P
T	H	E	M	E	D	A	L	O	F	H	O	N	O	R
L	E	P	E	R		L	E	S	E		S	O	S	O
A	S	S	E	R	T		P	A	R	D		S	E	N
				E	R	S			M	O	A			
S	P	E	E	D	I	N	G	T	I	C	K	E	T	
N	A	S	T		N	O	R	A		K	I	L	O	S
A	L	T	O		A	R	A	M		E	R	A	S	E
P	E	E	N		L	E	M	A		D	A	N	S	E

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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have many interests! You test the waters and then move on. You enjoy the company of others, and you love to entertain. In turn, people find you charming, partly because you're interesting due the fact you're well-traveled and well-read. Your strong imagination draws you into fascinating situations. In the year ahead, you have an important choice to make. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Eva Green, actress; Edie Falco, actress; Kathryn Erbe, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might discover some surprising secrets today. Anything could happen. Something that is hidden could suddenly come to the surface. (This includes secret love affairs.) Oops.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might meet a new female friend today, or perhaps an existing friend will do something to surprise you. You feel strongly about certain ideals and goals.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel very independent today! You don't want anyone telling you what to do. Therefore, avoid bossy types so that you can avoid creating conflict.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Don't jump to hasty conclusions today, especially about racial issues, politics or religion. However, unexpected opportunities to travel or learn something new could pop up.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): An unexpected gift or goodie might come your way today. Perhaps someone else wants to do a favor for you? Just smile and say "thank you."

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Partners and close friends are unpredictable today. You might feel they're crowding you in some way. For whatever reason, you need more independence and more space!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Computer glitches, power outages and detours due to technology are likely at work today. Co-workers are unpredictable as well. Remain calm and patient.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Unexpected flirtations might be exciting for some of you. In fact, love at first sight could happen. Parents must be extra vigilant about children today, because it's a minor accident-prone day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It'd be hard to predict what family members are going to do today. But whatever it is, you don't want someone bossing you around. That is a certainty!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a minor accident-prone day. Take extra precautions when driving, walking or jogging. You also have to watch what suddenly comes out of your mouth. Just take your time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might find money today; you might lose it. Unpredictable events connected with your finances and cash flow are likely. Check your bank account.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel restless and independent today. Because of this, you might even stir up trouble just to see what happens. Not a wise choice. (Put a lid on it.) Don't stir up anything just to see what happens.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

		5	2					
		1	3			7		
	8						9	2
			6		3		2	8
6	7		9		5			
3	5						8	
		9			1	4		
					7	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/05

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	9	2	1	3	4	5	6	7
1	5	7	9	8	6	2	4	3
3	4	6	2	5	7	8	1	9
7	6	5	3	4	9	1	2	8
9	3	1	8	6	2	7	5	4
2	8	4	5	7	1	3	9	6
6	1	9	7	2	8	4	3	5
5	2	8	4	9	3	6	7	1
4	7	3	6	1	5	9	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

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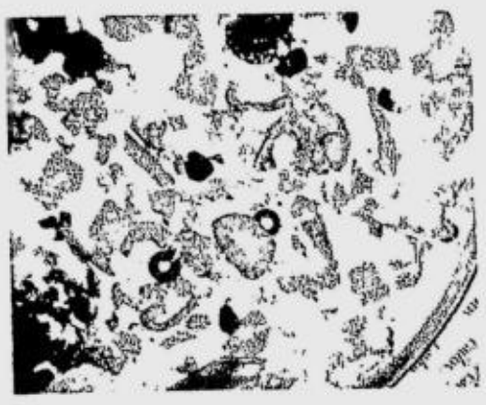
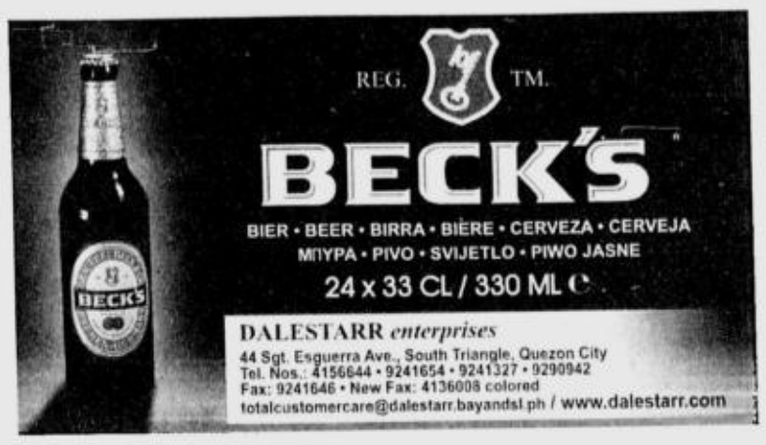
CARLO'S PIZZA offers 17 kinds of pizza including the Capriccioso Pizza, one of the restaurant's bestsellers. Carlo's Pizza outlets are at BF Homes-Paranaque, SM Baguio, Camp John Hay and Tagaytay.

PRINCE of Jaipur specializes in North Indian cuisine. Its menu includes Lamb Biryani, which is cooked with spices and seasonings and mixed with Basmati rice. Prince of Jaipur is at Eastwood City, Fuente Circle, City Walk 1. Call 9111204 or text 0917-8EWCITY.

BLACKBEARD'S Seafood Island has opened in Eastwood City, Libis. A popular dish is the Grilled Hawaiian Ulang. Other favorites include the Boodle Feast, Seafood and Crab dishes. Call 9135701, 8867692 or 9132694.

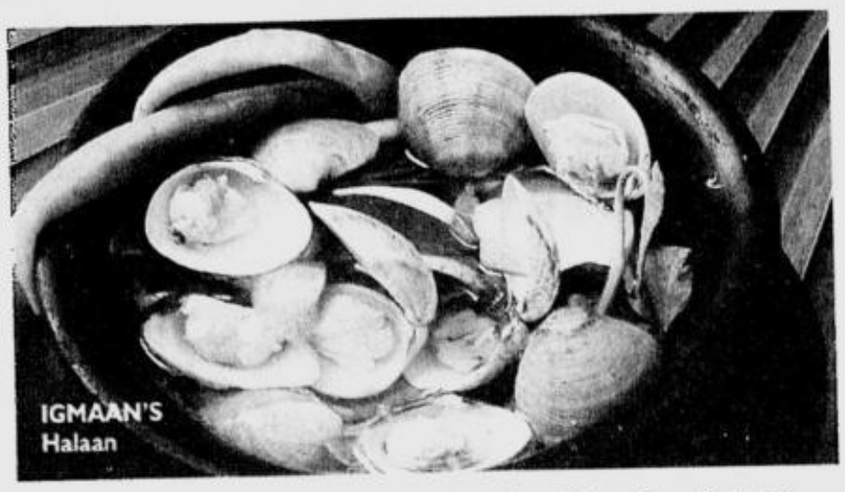




DINING OUT

A 'paluto' seaside resto

THE SEASIDE COMPLEX ON MACAPAGAL Boulevard, Pasay features rows and rows of *paluto* restaurants. Igmaan is one of the restaurants in the wet-market-cum-kitchen-fresh seafood dining complex. Owned by Bobby Demalata, Noriel Ricaforte and Lizza Arcilla-Ricaforte, the name Igmaan was derived from *igma*, a *Karaya* word for lunch. Its bestsellers include Igmaan's Adobong Pusit, Adobong Pusit-flavored rice, Congrejo de Liz and Halaan Soup. Igmaan is open every day, 10 a.m.-12 mn. Call 4972690, 0928-7772547 or 0928-5059405.



IGMAAN'S Halaan

PEPATO serves fresh Porcini mushrooms and Italian Roma tomatoes from Rome's famed Campo dei Fiori. Enjoy it with their summer truffles and wide cheese selection—a bit of Italy at your table. Pepato is in Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center. Call 7572636.

THE HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA'S new executive chef, Sunny Goh is offering "Royal Thai Feast" until July 14 at the Restaurant Riviera. Price is P988 per person either for buffet lunch or dinner. Dishes include Tom Yam Kung (Spicy Shrimp Soup); Phat Thai (Fried Noodles Thai Style); Kaeng Khiao Wan Kai (Green Chicken Curry); Kaeng Phet Pet Yang (Roast Duck Curry); Yam Nua (Spicy Beef Salad); and Papaya Salad. Call 8548888 or e-mail foodbev@heritagehotelmanila.com.

MANILA Pavilion's Peony Garden presents Chef Lee's Specials featuring Kaw Chee Golden Shark's Fin; Braised Pigeon with Golden Garlic; Braised Crab with Onion Leeks; Eve Noodle with Seafood Wong Man; Braised Roast Pork with Bean Curd; and Double Boiled Abalone. Call 5261212 locals 2503 and 2303.

KITARO offers Cold Samplers: Kani Salad-California Maki for P89; Kani Salad-Tuna Sushi for P79; Maguro Tataki-Seared Tuna with special dressing for P215; Unagi Boh-chopped unagi tamago—cucumber and shredded kani rolled in *nori* for P189 (five pieces) and P89 (two pieces) at Kitaro outlets.

Beef recipes and sandwiches

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL OF Culinary Arts offers the following classes:

July 6: Delicious Beef Recipes at Half the Price (all new)—Roast Beef: Kona Coffee-crusted and Brown Sugar-glazed Slow-roasted Angus Beef Belly; Whole Marinated Hanger Tender Roast with two gravies and side dishes. Bonus: Orange Beef (top blade) with Wild Fried Rice

July 7: Soup, Salad and Grilled Sandwich Buffet (special class, all new)—Grilled Sandwiches Done on the Spot: Mini Roast Beef and Cheese, Mushroom and Grilled Cheese, Giant Deli Sandwich, Grilled Vegetable, Turkey Apple, Grilled Chicken and Sun-dried Tomato. Salad Bar—five dressings. Soups: Cold Cucumber Melon, Best-Ever Clam Chowder Beef, Vegetable and Barley, Best Ever Mushroom Soup

July 9: All About Ribs—Delicious Lamb Spareribs Barbecue, Cinnamon Lamb Ribs, Costillas de Cerdo (Spanish-style ribs), The Best Sweet Ginger Ribs, Tausi Baby Back Ribs, Japanese Miso Baby Back Ribs

July 11: Noodle Meals '07 (all new)—Mixed Satays with Peanut Noodle, Best-Ever Angus Beef Short Ribs Cooked Pho Bo Style (Vietnamese) with condiments, Wagyu Beef Cheeks Asado with Cold Noodle Salad, Crisp Homemade Bagnet with Pancit, Taro-crusted Chicken with Yaki Soba.

Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162.

Healthy meals

Maya Kitchen offers Hearty Healthy Meal Sampler, 2-6 p.m., July 7.

"Cake Decorating," 9 a.m.-4 p.m., July 5-6, will cover the fundamentals.

"Basic Culinary," 9 a.m.-2 p.m., July 10-13, will teach proper hygiene, sanitation and safety, etc.

"Chinese Snacks," 2-6 p.m., July 14, will include, among others, Siopao, Siomai, Cuapao, Hopia and Puto Pao.

"Fundamentals of Bakery Production," 9 a.m.-1 p.m., July 17-19, covers standard baking techniques. Maya Kitchen is at 8/F, Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati. Call 8921185, 8925011 loc. 108. E-mail mkitchen @ultimate.info.com.ph.

Fil-Am chef interprets Filipino food

From page C1

Engineer chef

Even if Aglibot's father was a cook in the navy, the culinary arts were never considered a proper career in his family so he got a degree in engineering at the University of California Los Angeles.

But he knew he liked to cook so he enrolled at the City College of San Francisco Hotel and Restaurant Program. After graduation, his teachers told him to apprentice at the five-star and five-diamond Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia.

In one of the articles about him, chef Aglibot is quoted describing Greenbrier as a "culinary boot camp." They had to do 1,500 covers a night, each one a "decadent 12-course meal."

The feel for fusion came later when he worked in San Francisco restaurants like the Pan-Asian E & O Trading Company and the French-Asian Peregrine and Magic Flute. He brought Asian fusion to the first restaurant where he became executive chef, Koi, and to his own Yi Cuisine.

Making a name in both, he was invited to cook at the James Beard House dinner in 2004 (James Beard was a revered American chef and food writer whose house has been preserved and serves as the office of the James Beard Foundation).

COLD *guinataan* soup

After the *foie gras*, he said the next course was a take on the... he had trouble pronouncing *guinataan*.

'Guinataan' soup

What he meant was *guinataang halo-halo*, a traditional *merienda* food with rootcrops like *camote* and *ube* cubes, *saba* banana, *sago* and *bilo-bilo* (ground glutinous rice mixed with water and shaped into balls), boiled in coconut milk then thickened with coconut cream. While I like eating *guinataang halo-halo* hot, others prefer it cold, straight from the refrigerator.

The cold soup came, a bowl of cold cream with a small scoop of what looked like *ube halaya*, corn kernels and bits of tiny sago mixed in. The cold soup was light and refreshing and made me smile because the idea seemed far out but it did work.

Of his entrées, we ordered the lemon grass-crusted rib-eye with *calamansi* glaze and the sea bass colored with tandoori spices then roasted. They were cooked well and very flavorful. But we were also curious of his pork belly *adobo* in coconut milk and the lobster *arroz caldo*.

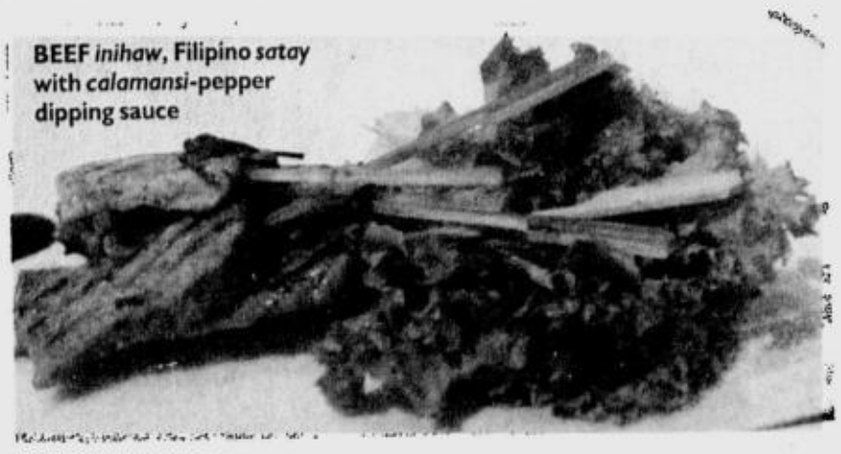
We didn't get to taste his avocado mousse, described by one LA reviewer as "one of the most original and tasty" desserts. It's supposed to be served in hollowed-out avocado with shaved ice flavored with milk (*leche*) and with a raspberry sauce.

So, is Filipino food making it out there? Chef Aglibot believes so though diners don't know it. He confirmed that Fil-Am chefs have been infusing their menus with Filipino cooking.

Reading reviews of Yi Cuisine gave a picture of its menu that included *kare-kare*, chicken *adobo*, seafood *sinigang*, garlic noodles topped with dried shrimp paste, and crispy *pata* that a reviewer described as "made with fancy *kurobuta* pork and served with a vinegar dip enriched with *foie gras* instead of the traditional puréed pork liver."

Aglibot plans to open another restaurant, this time in Seattle. The menu will be Asian but it will include only South Asian cuisine. Of course, that means it will have the cooking of his home country, as interpreted by this Filipino chef.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04 @yahoo.com



BEEF *inihaw*, Filipino *satay* with *calamansi*-pepper dipping sauce

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Email: cafeysabel@mydestiny.net

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RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

COOKING CLASSES

July 10, Tuesday - PASTA IN A FLASH. Let Chef Gino teach you 8 quick, easy and delightful pasta recipes in one short period. Recipes include Pasta Frittata, Linguine in Vongole Sauce, Chorizo, Mushroom and Roasted Red Bell Pepper Sauce, Chicken and Shrimp Lemon Crème Sauce, Pasta Bianca alla Carbonara, Pasta Salad with Honey Dill Dressing and Gino's Puttanesca for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 3:00 p.m.

July 12, Thursday - THE MEXICAN TABLE. Let Chef Gino Gonzalez captivate you with his Mexican dishes that is perfect for entertaining and it might even be your next food business. Recipes include Burrito, Cheese and Pepper Flautas, Fresh Salsa, Mango Salsa, Roasted Tomato Salsa, Carnitas, Prawns and Almond Sauce and Garbanzo Cake with Pineapple and Caramel and a bonus recipe of Sangria. The fee for this class is P1,800.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 3:00 p.m.

July 15, Sunday - ALL ABOUT CHICKEN PART 2. New set of chicken recipes from Chef Jenny Tan for the whole family and friend to enjoy, the recipes are Chicken Taco, Chicken Noodle Salad, Chicken Vegetable Soup, Chicken with Herbed Butter Wrap, Green Chicken Curry and Brown Rice with Chicken from 11:00 3:00 p.m. including all ingredients for P1,500.00. NEW CLASS.

July 17, Tuesday - PASTA IN A FLASH 2. Another 8 quick, easy and delightful pasta recipes in one short period. Recipes include Porcini with Cambozola Sauce, Roasted Walnut Gorgonzola Sauce, Truffle Scented Liver Sauce, Seafood with Hazelnut Butter Sauce, Scallop and Shrimp Saffron Sauce, Chorizo and Chicken Tomato Cream, Mushroom Pancetta in Olive oil, Chicken and Shrimp Pesto are recipes from Chef Gino. For P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 3:00 p.m

July 18, Wednesday - CREPES WORKSHOP: DESSERTS AND SAVORY Café Breizh Chef/Owner Paul Tee will teach us the secret in making crepes. Chef Paul will be demonstrating the basic crepe recipe with Savory and Dessert variations. The recipes are Chicken Crepe Lasagna, Sausage Mushroom Cheese Herbs, Crepe Bolognese, Classic Crepe Suzette, Mango Cream Crepe, Mixed Fruit Crepe and Banana Chocoloco Crepes from 11:00 3:00 p.m. for P1,500.00 including all the ingredients

July 19, Thursday - THE SPECIALTY BURGER CLASS. Chef Gino Gonzalez elevates the Beef Patty sandwich into a gourmet's delight with new and original concepts. International variations such as Classic Burgers; Burger de Luxe; Green Peppercorn Burger; Greek Burger; Swiss Burger; Parisian Burger and Sicilian Burger with different side-dishes for Ph 1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 3:00 p.m.

July 22, Sunday - CHINESE BANQUET AT HOME, PART 2. Anyone who has enjoyed the pleasures of a Chinese Banquet meal has inevitably wondered what it would be like to create these delicacies at home. The answer, surprisingly is that most are quite easy to make. Chef Jenny Tan will be demonstrating another set of recipes that you will surely enjoy to cook and serve for your family and friends. The recipes are: Stir-fried Roasted Pork with Gingko Nuts, Black Chicken Soup with Mushroom and Black Moss, Prawns in Beancurd Skin Rolls, Chicken with Orange Sauce, Fried Rice with Salted Fish and Dried Scallops and Chinese Pancake with Ground Peanuts and Sugar. Including all ingredients for P1,500.00 from 11:00 3:00 p.m.

July 23, Monday - PRAWNS TO PLEASE. Chef Gene will teach us different styles of cooking prawns that you will enjoy. Recipes include Prawns Furai, Prawns Benihana, Sizzling Crystal Prawns in Chinese Bagoong, Prawns in Orange Sauce, Prawns in Tamarind Sauce (Crustacean Style) and Prawns in Caramelized Walnuts for P1,800.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 3:00 p.m.

July 24, Tuesday - RICE COOKERY: ASIAN STYLE Japanese Fried Rice, Chicken & Mushroom Fried Rice, Chinese Sausage & Shrimp Fried Rice, Mixed Seafood Fried Rice, Salted Fish Fried Rice and Raddish Fried Rice with Ground Pork are the Asian Style Rice Cookery recipes that Chef Paul Tee will be demonstrating. For P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 3:00p.m. NEW CLASS.

July 27, Friday - BREAKFAST AND SNACKS FOR KIDS Another new class from our Davao Chef, Chef Paul Tee for our kids to enjoy, his new recipes include Chicken Cream Sandwich, Egg Omelet with Rice Fillings, Hotdog & Cheese Fritters, Corned Beef Casserole, Spaghetti Pasta with Spam and Bacon Bits, Monte Cristo Sandwich with Egg, Cheese and Ham Fillings and St. Patrick's Corned Beef for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

July 30, Monday - LASAP: TEMPTING FAVORITES. Adobong Crispy Pata, Tiyan ng Bangus sa Utaw, Sizzling Kuaket, Laing sa Lasap, Sari-saring Lumpang Paborito, Ensalada de Polo and Guinomis for the dessert are some of Filipino recipes of Chef Gene Gonzalez he loves to prepare to entertain his family and friends. Let's try it and enjoy. P1,500.00 including ingredients from 11:00 to 3:00 PM.

August 01 - 02, Tuesday & Wednesday - THE COFFEE CLASS 1 & 2. Learn from Chef Gene Gonzalez, the tastemaster of coffee and consultant designer to several coffee house systems teach you (hands-on) the basic of making proper and profitable cups of Americano, Espresso, Cappuccino, Lattés, etc. The class will also touch on the basics of blending, machine and costing on the first day. Day 2 will cover exciting and high profit cold coffee concoctions with creative topping and syrups such as Mocha Madness, Café Seville, Café Tortoni, Coffee Jelly etc. The course is open to both restaurant operators and hobbyists. Recipes include all ingredients from 1:00 4:00 for P3,000.00 for the 2 days.

BAKING CLASSES

July 11, Wednesday - FAVORITE COOKIES AND BARS 1. Chef Junjun de Guzman presents scrumptious baked goodies he grew up with like Nutty Butterscotch Bars, Oatmeal Mango Cookies; Honey Orange Bars, Rocky Road Bar, Amaretti Cookies and Neiman's Mistake for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 4:00 p.m.

July 13, Friday - CATERING DESSERTS (SPOON DESSERTS) Chef Junjun de Guzman will make his popular easy to do desserts served and eaten with a spoon. Great for instant parties and big catering jobs. His line-up are the following: Raspberry and Mandarin Gelatine, Tiramisu, Apple Bake with Cinnamon Sauce, Cappuccino Pannacotta, Bread and Butter Pudding, Mango Merry Meringue and Chocolate Caramel Mousse. P1,800.00 from 11:00 3:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

July 20, Friday - CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES. Chocolate Truffles has become the ultimate desserts confections. Chef Junjun de Guzman our Callebaut trained chocolatier teaches you the basics and flavored truffles; Dark, Milk and White Chocolate Truffles; Orange; Cayenne Pepper; Green Tea and Wasabi are just some of the flavored variations to be made. Including all ingredients for P1,500,00 from 1:00 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

July 25, Wednesday - CHEESECAKES: WITH A DIFFERENCE. Chef & Food Columnist Adorée Chong-Uy will present new ways to prepare cheesecakes. Recipes include Ube Mousse Cheesecake, Langka Cheesecake, Mango Cheesecake, Dalandan Curd Cheesecake, Pandan Cheesecake and Green Tea Cheesecake for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10.00 4:00 p.m

July 26, Thursday - CLASS FULL OF BROWNIES. For the novice baker, dessert lover and café owners, here is the class for you. Chef Junjun will show and teach you a variety of brownies namely: Traditional, Coffee Blond, Marble, White Chocolate Chocochip Blondies and Strawberry Blondies. All ingredients are included for P1,500.00 from 1:00 4:00 pm.

July 31, Tuesday - SPECIAL BARS. Learn a new set of delectable bar recipes from Chef Adoree Chong-Uy which are perfect for a home-based business. Recipes include Chocolate Raspberry bars, Date and Apple Squares, Sour Cream Streusel Bars, Sesame Squares, Almond Bars and Lemon Squares for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 4:00 p.m.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATION.

DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

The Professional Culinary Arts Program prepares students for professional entry into the food service industry. This intensive program integrates classical and modern culinary techniques from the finest institutions abroad with kitchen management skills. Students learn how to prepare soups, sauces, vegetables, entrees, breads, pastries and desserts. They will learn how to identify, fabricate and portion meat, poultry, fish and shellfish. The course will also provide the introductory skills on Asian and Halal cooking, wine appreciation, gastronomy, table service and back of the house operations.

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Classes will start on October. Schedule for TTHS 10:00 - 4:00 and 5:00 - 11:00 pm. Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn Espino, Paul Tee or Glady Zamora.

To my surprise, the best prawns are not only found in fancy restaurants but at Saint Luke's, too. Their patient food is exceptional so long as there are no dietary restrictions. Thanks to chef Ron Buela

HEART'S Delight—Prawns with Shallot Marmalade

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KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

Thank you, Mom

THE PAST WEEK MADE ME realize that every moment with those dear to you counts.

My mom unfortunately suffered a heart attack. Though it could not be averted—for she refuses to have a checkup, using all her motherly authority over us, a situation we could do nothing about—God's goodness, technology and the able hands of her doctors spared us from what could have been life's poignant reality.

Mom is 81 and, apart from her six hospital admissions to childbirth, she has blissfully spent her years in good health and timeless beauty. "Aging gracefully" is Mom personified.

Interventional cardiologist Enrique "Pogi" Posas performed her angioplasty, turning the tide from critical to walking, in just two days. He did the procedure in 45 minutes in what seemed like a game room filled with monitors for viewing clogged arteries.

The tools doubled as joy sticks with which Posas suctioned off blockages to make way for a stent (some kind of an internal splint).

Along with the best cardiac surgeon Stan de Castro, surgeon Pepito Oreta and cardiologist Kiko Lucban, Mom got the best of care.

Discoveries

Having cooked for Mom while she was in the hospital, I was left with the hospital food tray, since I couldn't eat what I cooked.

I'd never touched hospital food till now. It was so beautifully presented. Looking so tempting, it deserved a shot.

To my surprise, the best prawns are not only found in fancy restaurants but at Saint Luke's, too. Their patient food is exceptional, so long as there are no dietary restrictions. Thanks to chef Ron Buela.

- Pristinely antiseptic, St. Luke's actually has butlers, a concierge service, waiters (the best is Ben de la Cruz), a huge fully equipped hotel-like kitchen and 24-hour room service on the executive floor.
- I don't wish for you to be confined to try their menu so I asked St. Luke's highly competent Marilen Tronqued Lagniton to make sure I got this recipe so I could share it with you. I also thank her for all the help.
- In case you need a midwife to care for your loved ones, Mildred Wong is pleasant and efficient (tel. 0921-3280497).

Heart's Delight—Prawns with Shallot Marmalade

180 g prawns, de-veined, butterfly cut
10 g each garlic, chopped, shallots, sliced
1 wedge lemon
20 g peanut sauce/*satay* sauce (Unimart)
3 tbsp olive oil
10 g paprika
10 ml white wine

Season prawns with salt and pepper. Saute shallots in olive oil until caramelized, de-glaze with white wine, add peanut sauce.

Grill prawns and stuff with shallot mixture. Serve with roast potato and buttered vegetable.

Tribute

Mom is home now, walking around and perfectly normal. She has resumed her daily routine, the most pressing of which are the beauty parlor and weekly facials.

Today's Kitchen Rescue is my tribute to her. Pardon me for this, but while I can and while I am gifted with precious time, I must let her know how truly special she is.

Dearest Mom,

To put eloquently into words what the heart so deeply feels, is an injustice. But at least, let me try...

We will never be able to thank you as we should, for no love equals yours.

For 81 years you have loved us and we know love because of you. All that is right and good in us, in fact, the best part of us, is you.

Today I laud the beauty of your person, literally and figuratively. For 81, you look so good, Mother! You like hearing that, don't you?

Each day spent by your side is a gift and we continue to count our blessings—one by one, and slowly—and of which, you are one of heaven's greatest.

Bask in the comforting thought that you are loved more than you will ever know, that you are appreciated more than we could ever truly show and, for all that you are to us, we remain forever in gratitude.

Thank you so much, Mommy, for loving us!

Three-day diet

Speaking of the heart, let's talk about the Three-day Diet.

Having lost seven pounds and two inches in three days was such good news that I had to share it with you.

But, before we get all excited, I would like to thank my readers for pointing me to the web site of the American Heart Association (http://216.185.112.5/presenter.jhtml?identifier=4715) which stated:

"The public should be aware that there are diets that purport to be from the American Heart Association that are not.

"The phony diet describes a three-day menu, supposedly prescribed by the American Heart Association or by the 'Heart Association.' It includes vanilla ice cream, hot dogs, eggs and cheddar cheese.

"The diet promises a 10-pound weight loss in three days. The diet also goes by the names: Spokane Heart Diet, Cleveland Clinic Diet and Miami Heart Institute Diet."

In the excitement of fitting beautifully into my jeans, nothing else seemed to matter but to spread the news. Mea culpa! My sincerest apologies and many thanks to those who went out of their way to correct the diet's claim.

Hay nako! AHA may be the American Hotdog Association!

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

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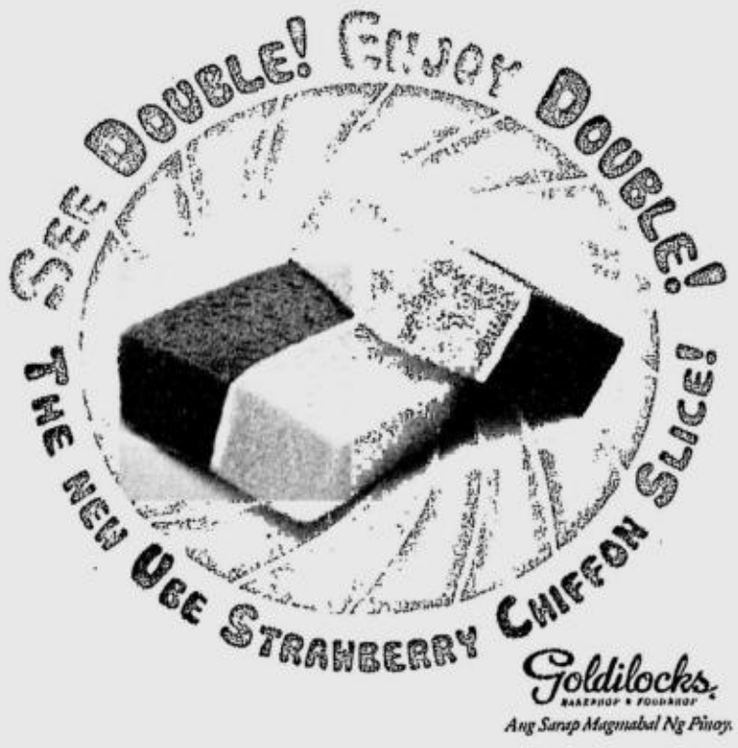

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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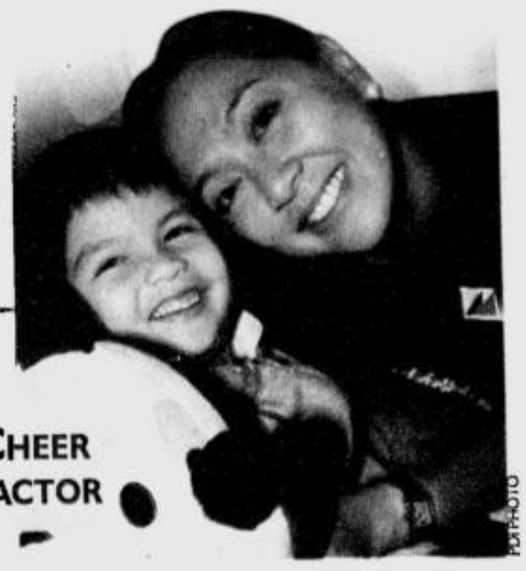


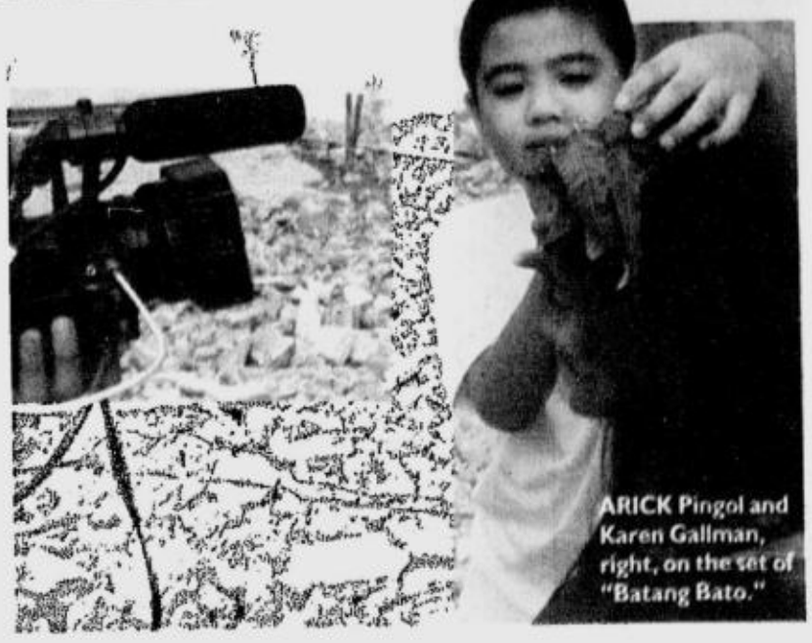
CHEER FACTOR

Baby makes four for Karen

Broadcast journalist Karen Davila and husband DJ Sta. Ana are expecting their second child. Davila told INQUIRER Entertainment that she is on her "first trimester." It will be the couple's second child; firstborn David Joshua (right, with mom) is 5. "It's time to give him a brother or sister," Karen says. "I'm excited!"

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Kapuso workshop graduates get to watch their own movies on the big screen



ARICK Pingol and Karen Gallman, right, on the set of "Batang Bato."

GMA 7 mounts its 1st short film fest

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE KAPUSO NETWORK TAKES TALENT DEvelopment seriously, says Ida Henares, assistant vice president and head of GMA Artist Center (GMAAC).

"We have various workshops all year round," Henares volunteers. The center started offering said training for outsiders and employees alike two years ago.

As culminating project for the Film and TV Production and Acting workshops, adds talent development coordinator GA Villafuerte, the students produced short films.

Now GMA 7, in cooperation with the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (IFC), has mounted its first festival of short films, "Sindié: Sa Pagsisimula ng Indie" at Robinsons Galleria's IndieSine.

The 14 films, products of the workshops in June and October 2006, and April 2007, are: "Katha," "Saka," "Mga Kuwento Kong Sana," "Taong Grasa," "Otra Ves," "Sidewalk," "Kasal," "Baritada" and "In a Flash" (8 minutes.); "Lea," "Batang Bato," "Binhi," and "Photo Express" (20); and "Glen Con Banyo" (3).

Jenny Donato, events and publicity specialist, says this summer's acting students had Bembol Roco, German Moreno, Tina de Guzman, Roence Santos and Nanding Josef as facilitators.

The Film and TV Production workshops were handled by indie filmmakers Jon Red, Raymond Red, Robert Quebral, Cesar Hernando and Paolo Villaluna; and TV director Ruel Bayani.

People's Choice

Acting workshops had 45 to 50 students each in the kids, teens and adults divisions, says Villafuerte. Film and TV Production had 35 enrollees.

The festival began yesterday and runs until July 10. Admission ticket is P100 each, good for all 14 films. Moviegoers are invited to vote for the People's Choice award to be given out on July 8, along with citations for Best Short Film, Director, Actress, Actor, Supporting Actress and Actor, Child Actress and Actor, Cinematography, and Production Design.

The Real Causes of WOMEN'S HAIRLOSS

Hair can enhance or ruin a woman's appearance. Deemed her "crowning glory," thick, healthy, lush strands that frame a woman's face can emphasize her beauty and youth. On the contrary, hair loss can do the exact opposite. It can make a woman appear older and less attractive, which can cause low self-esteem, depression and isolation.

There are various triggers of women's baldness. Hormonal changes by far have the biggest impact since they stimulate hair growth *and* cause the actual hairloss. Female Pattern Baldness (or Androgenetic alopecia) is a reaction to male hormones in the body. It is an inherited sensitivity to the effects of male hormones (androgens) on scalp hair follicles.

Stress can also be a contributing factor to women's hairloss. This leads to a severe tension in the scalp, affecting the supply of essential nutrition required for the healthy growth of hair. Hair damage from the use of hair styling treatments and other chemicals also affects the hair condition, making the hair strands weak and causing them to break.

Svenson utilizes various treatments to help women avoid hairloss from occurring. In the case of hairloss that has already started, Svenson also has solutions to prevent it from progressing to more advanced hairloss. With Svenson, women not only get their hair back, they also look younger and better. Call Svenson today at 892-HAIR (4247) for a free consultation.

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

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GREENBELT 3	1 THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DIE HARD 4.0	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 TRANSFORMERS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 DIE HARD 4.0	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 TRANSFORMERS
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Market! Market! - 886 7519
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Glorietta	Philippine Retailers Association Job Fair July 5 & 6, 2007
Greenbelt	The Fashion Sale (Up to 70% discount from participating Greenbelt 3 & 4 stores) July 1 to 15, 2007
Alabang Town Center	Christian Bautista & Rachel Ann Go Live! July 7, 2007
Ayala Center Cebu	AV Surfer Exhibit July 1 to 15, 2007
Market! Market!	BPI Appliance Madness July 6 to 22, 2007
Onstage	ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007 For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861
Ayala Museum	Damian Domingo: The First Great Filipino Painter Exhibit - June 19 to Jan. 6, 2008 Pioneers of Philippine Art - June 15 to January 6, 2008 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	BARBIE BIRTHDAY BASH July 1 (2PM & 4PM) at the Activity Center HUMAN'S RICO BLANCO EXHIBIT July 2 to 15 (Mall Hours) at the 1st Level Exhibit Area

Glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! TriNoma

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4.0
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1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
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Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 INVISIBLE
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4.0

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 TRANSFORMERS

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WILDERNESS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 BIRTHDAY GIFE
3 PLEASE CALL
4 DIE HARD 4.0

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 TIYANAKS
2 NAGHUHUMIYAW
3 DIE HARD 4.0
4 WILDERNESS
5 TRANSFORMERS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CAPE KARMA
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 DIE HARD 4.0

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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OPENS JULY 11

SCREENING TIME	JULY 11 WEDNESDAY	JULY 12 THURSDAY	JULY 13 FRIDAY	JULY 14 SATURDAY	JULY 15 SUNDAY	JULY 16 MONDAY	JULY 17 TUESDAY
11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	FEW SEATS	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	FEW SEATS	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Subject to change without prior notice. You may also call your nearest SM Cinema branch and The Podium Cinema for their respective advance ticket selling screening schedule.

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
SPIDER-MAN 3 8:00PM Admission Prices: P 350
T-REX 1:00PM 4:30PM Admission Prices: P 200
ANT BULLY 2:30PM 6:00PM Admission Prices: P 250
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO

PREMIERE CINEMA
DIE HARD 4

CENTERSTAGE
TRANSFORMERS

THE PODIUM CINEMAS
CINEMA 1
DIE HARD 4
CINEMA 2
TRANSFORMERS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 PARAISO
10 TIYANAKS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 DIE HARD 4
2 PARAISO
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 NEXT
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 TIYANAKS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PARAISO
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 DIE HARD 4
8 TIYANAKS
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 NEXT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 PARAISO
9 FANTASTIC FOUR
10 NEXT

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 PARAISO
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 TIYANAKS

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 DIE HARD 4
6 DIE HARD 4
7 PARAISO
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 NEXT

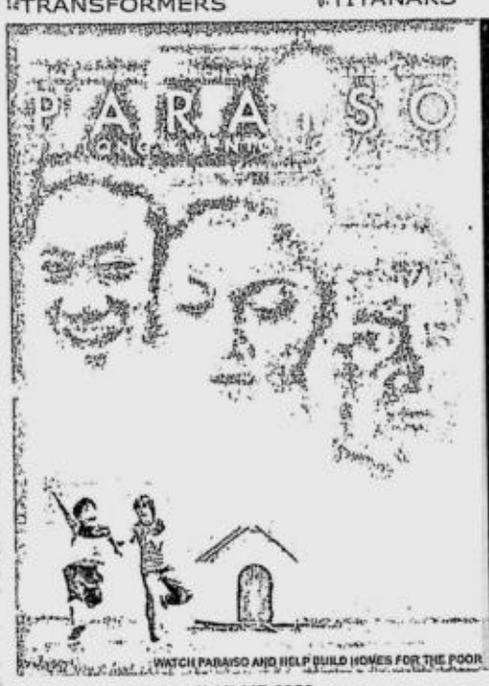
SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 NEXT
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 PARAISO
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TIYANAKS
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 TIYANAKS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS



PARAISO
presents three stories of how Gawad Kalinga changed the lives of these people.

Jocelyn, a mother who starts a life anew after a tragedy; Elvis, a lost boy who finds a home with another family; and Rudy, who's vow to help is done in memory of his loved one, who died in 9/11.

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TRANSFORMERS
DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS
TRANSFORMERS
DIE HARD 4
TIYANAKS
PARAISO
FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
DIE HARD 4
DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS
TRANSFORMERS
TIYANAKS
PARAISO

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
TRANSFORMERS
TIYANAKS
TRANSFORMERS
DIE HARD 4

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
TRANSFORMERS
DIE HARD 4
TIYANAKS
MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
TRANSFORMERS
DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS
DIE HARD 4
PARAISO
TIYANAKS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
TRANSFORMERS
DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS
TIYANAKS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS/THE SHOOTER
TIYANAKS
TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
DIE HARD 4
TIYANAKS
TRANSFORMERS
TRANSFORMERS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS
TRANSFORMERS
TIYANAKS

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
TIYANAKS
CONDEMNED
DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
DIE HARD 4
PARAISO
FANTASTIC FOUR/ DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS
TIYANAKS
TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
DIE HARD 4
TIYANAKS
TRANSFORMERS
DIE HARD 4

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
TRANSFORMERS
INVISIBLES
DIE HARD 4
TIYANAKS
DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS
RESERVED
PARAISO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
TRANSFORMERS
DIE HARD 4
DIE HARD 4
FANTASTIC FOUR
PARAISO
TIYANAKS
TRANSFORMERS
DIE HARD 4

SM CITY DACOLOD (034) 706 1010
DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS4
TIYANAKS
TRANSFORMERS

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Amalia, Gretchen ...

coco cereal portion of the kiddie show I hosted weekly. He would cringe every time I mentioned his name on TV. How he shuns publicity!

Now that Koko's all over the papers, I can just imagine how he abhors all the media attention. But knowing him, he would come out on top of it just like he did in the bar exams.

World Music Festival

I am counting the days till the International World Music Festival '07 in Malaysia. It coincides with their 50th Merdeka Day celebration.

Terimah kasih to **Eva Carmona**, the amiable marketing manager of the Malaysia Touri (Man cover in Kuc Set rainfo tural trava "Woo bring

---

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

TRANSFORMERS G 12:00,3:00,6:00,9:00	DIE HARD 4.0 PG13 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50	TRANSFORMERS G 1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00
DIE HARD 4.0 PG13 1:10,3:50,6:30,9:10	PARAISO G 1:00,3:20,5:40,8:00 DIE HARD 4.0 PG13 10:00PM	DIE HARD 4.0 PG13 12:00,2:30,5:10, 7:50,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30
2 DIE HARD 4.0 MTRCB PG-13 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
3 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00
4 DIE HARD 4.0 MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE: TRANSFORMERS (GP) 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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Tickets now available!! for "HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX"
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CINEMA 2: TRANSFORMERS 10:35 , 1:20 , 4:05 6:50 , 9:35 GP
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...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3: DIE HARD 4.0 10:20 , 1:05 , 3:50 6:35 , 9:20 PG-13
CINEMA 4: TRANSFORMERS 11:35 , 2:20 , 5:05 7:50 , 10:35 GP
CINEMA 5: DIE HARD 4.0 11:00 , 1:45 , 4:30 7:15 , 10:00 PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

July 7, 2007	Feelin' Las Vegas " Willie Nep "	8:30 PM
August 24 & 25 , 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM

T·E·A·T·R·O PROMENADE GREENHILLS

July 06 , 13 , 20 27 , 2007	Drag - Ons	10 00 PM
August 8-9 , 15-16 , 22-23 , 29-30	Cerrudo Classico Classic	8:00 PM

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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 DIE HARD 4.0 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55 PG-13
2 TRANSFORMERS 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50 G
3 DIE HARD 4.0 1:55, 5:05, 8:15, 11:25 PG-13
4 TRANSFORMERS 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20 G

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From page D4

m Promotion Board la): for inviting me to the event. It will be held hing from July 13 to 25. amidst the lush Bornean rest of the Sarawak Cul- Village, the musical ex- anza is dubbed as the Istock of Asia" as it together renowned musicians across the globe. The music shifts to the resort island of Penang from July 20 to 22 for the inaugural staging of the Penang International World Music Festival.

For details, log on to www.penangworldmusicfestival.com or call 812-0770.

I am raring to learn Malay as I go "ma at pa" (*Malay ko at paki ko!*) to show biz intrigues even just for a few blissful days in Malaysia.

Spice band

Spice up your *gimik* nights with the uber-cool music of the Spice band. They are **Jay Javier** and **Baldo** (vocalists), **Ramzy Sacapano** (lead guitar), **Wendell Monponbanna** (keyboards), **Edwin Malic** (bassist) and **Aaron Manio** (drums). Catch them Wednesdays at Paseo de Sta Rosa, Fridays at Joey's Sports Bar Cubao and Sundays at 22nd St. Bar Antipolo.

New mag show

A new genre of magazine/travel/talk show, "E-Connect," airs every Saturday 10 a.m. on Studio 23. Hosted by the irrepressible **Earl M. Beja** as conceptualized by One Media Inc., it focuses on timeless issues of life and aims to establish the interconnectedness of all races transcending gender, creed and religion. Connect and Correct!

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

Christina in Manila

FRESH FROM A 41-CITY RUN in the US, Christina Aguilera's "Back To Basics" tour goes to the Fort Bonifacio Global City Open Field, Taguig, tomorrow, at 8 p.m. The tour has drawn attention for its jazz, soul and blues lineup, featuring an orchestra backing up the singer. Call Ticketworld, 891-9999.

Araneta Center aranetacenter.net
Gateway NiMALL FarmersPlaza gatewaymall.com.ph
Gateway CinePlex*10 — LARGEST CURVED SCREEN 70 FT WIDE, 30 FT HIGH — EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
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DIE HARD 4 11:40 / 12:20 / 1:40 / 2:20 / 3:00 / 4:20 / 5:00 / 5:40 / 7:00 / 7:40 / 8:20 / 9:40
TIYANAKS 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
DIE HARD 4 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
NiMALL 5
1 TRANSFORMERS 11:30 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30
2 DIE HARD 4 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
3 FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
4 PARAISO 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
5 TIYANAKS 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35
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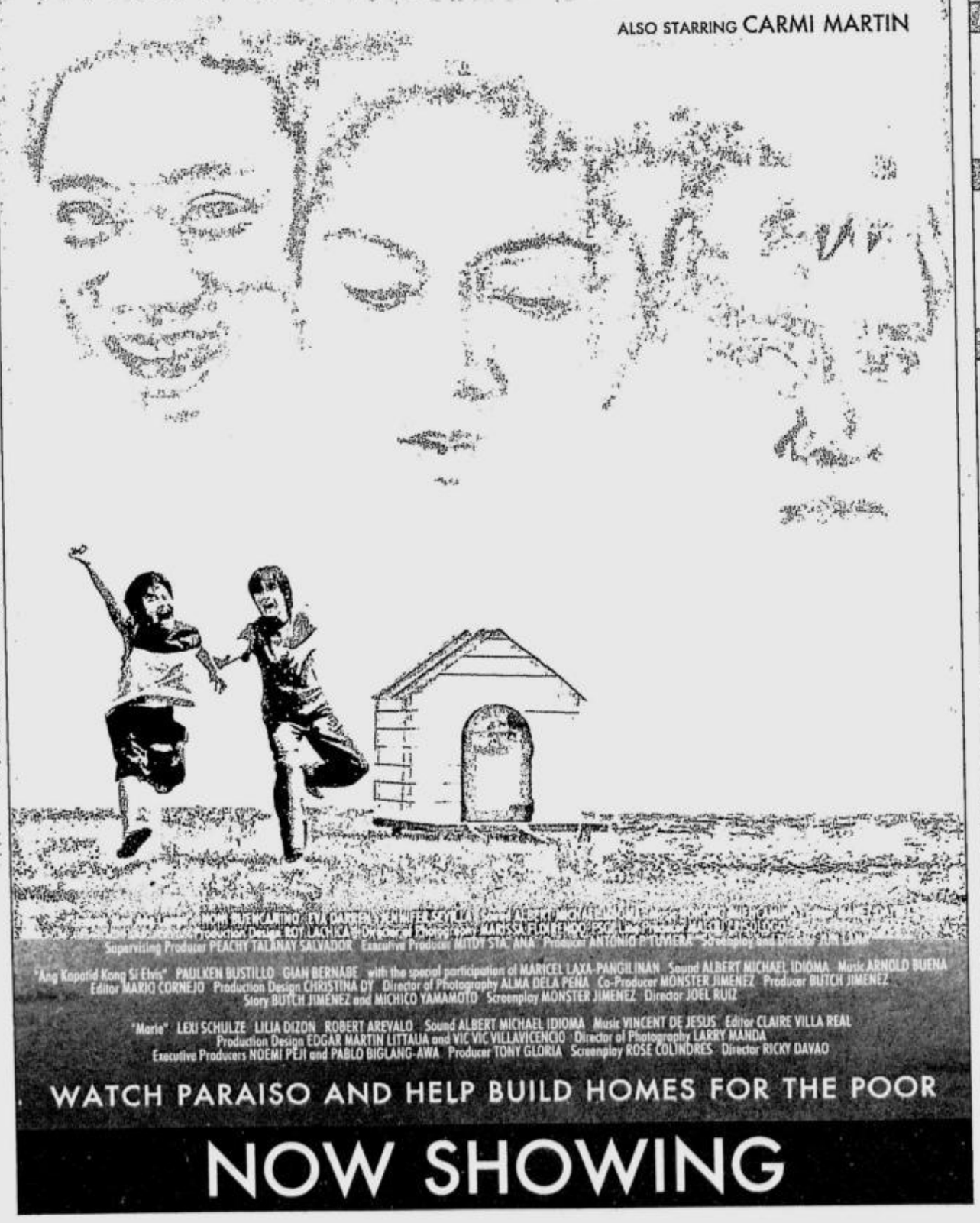

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1 DIE HARD 4 • THX
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 BUG
5 TIYANAKS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 indieSine: GMA Sindie Ang Pagsisimula sa Indie
9 PARAISO
10 TRANSFORMERS

ERMITA Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 DIE HARD 4
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
BUG
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 PARAISO
5 TIYANAKS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS

METRO EAST Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-6193 / 682-8190

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PARAISO
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 DIE HARD 4
8 TIYANAKS

NOVALICHES Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3228-30

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2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4

PIONEER Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-6376

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 THE INVISIBLE
4 TIYANAKS
5 DIE HARD 4

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3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

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3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 NEXT

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1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 DIE HARD 4

TARLAC

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 THE INVISIBLE

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4 DIE HARD 4
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 DIE HARD 4

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Top ten at the box office

Domestic revenues for June 29-July 1
Dollar figures in millions

Pixar Animation Studios

	Weekend gross	Gross to date	Weeks in release	Theaters
1. Ratatouille	$47.0	$47.0	1	3,940
2. Live Free or Die Hard	33.4	48.4	1	3,408
3. Evan Almighty	15.1	60.7	2	3,636
4. 1408	10.7	40.4	2	2,733
5. Fantastic Four (2)	9.1	114.9	3	3,424
6. Knocked Up	7.3	122.3	5	2,685
7. Ocean's Thirteen	6.1	102.1	4	2,903
8. Pirates (3)	5.0	295.7	6	2,162
9. Sicko	4.5	4.6	2	441
10. Evening	3.5	3.5	1	977

SOURCE: Media By Numbers, LLC AP

The brand-new 'Boy & Kris' show

TAKE FIVE

By Marinel R. Cruz

AT THE RECENT LAUNCH OF ABS-CBN's new morning talk show, Kris Aquino said Boy Abunda gave up being solo to share the spotlight with her.

"Boy doesn't need me," Kris said. The show, "Boy & Kris," replaces "Homeboy," which aired for two-and-a-half years.

Boy protested, "It's no sacrifice, giving up a solo show to be with Kris. When the idea came up, *walang pagdududa, walang pangamba*, I wanted to do it."

How is the show different from "The Buzz?"

Boy: We won't veer away from the format too much. Except now we're more fearless. I don't think we [still] have to ... prove our capabilities as hosts. We are now more concerned about ... influencing, [and] communicating good values to the audience.

Kris: That comes [in part] from being comfortable with who you are ... and happy with what you've become. What can [viewers] expect? *Walang takot na* opinion that wouldn't harm others.

How do you feel about competing with GMA 7's "Sis?"

Boy: Competition doesn't have to be nasty. Gelli (de Belen) is the wife of Ariel (Rivera), who is my talent. We're all friends.

Kris, what would it take for you to forget the rift between you and Cristy Fermin ("The Buzz" co-host)?

Kris: I don't want to answer. If I say something she doesn't like, *baka araw-arawin akong tirahin.*

How did the two of you meet?

Kris: (Talent manager) Girly Rodis introduced us at Bistro Lorenzo about 18 years ago. I was still in college. GR wanted Boy to handle some of my publicity. If you mean an on-screen tandem, that's 12 years—as old as Josh (her first-born).

Boy: The first thing I said of her was, "*Ang puti n'ya.*" I was excited, *kasi* Cojuangco *s'ya*, rich. I've always wanted to be rich (laughter).

Have you ever quarreled?

Kris: Never. We try to be a good influence to one another. And we watch each other's back.

Boy: I taught her how to save.

Are there things you'd want to change in each other?

Boy: With this friendship now, there's total respect. She may make wrong decisions that I disagree with, but I will always respect those decisions and stand by her.

Kris: There's one thing—his health. I know the benefits of an early-to-bed-early-to-rise routine. That's what I've been telling him to do. Also, he stopped smoking for me eight years ago.

How would you prove your friendship?

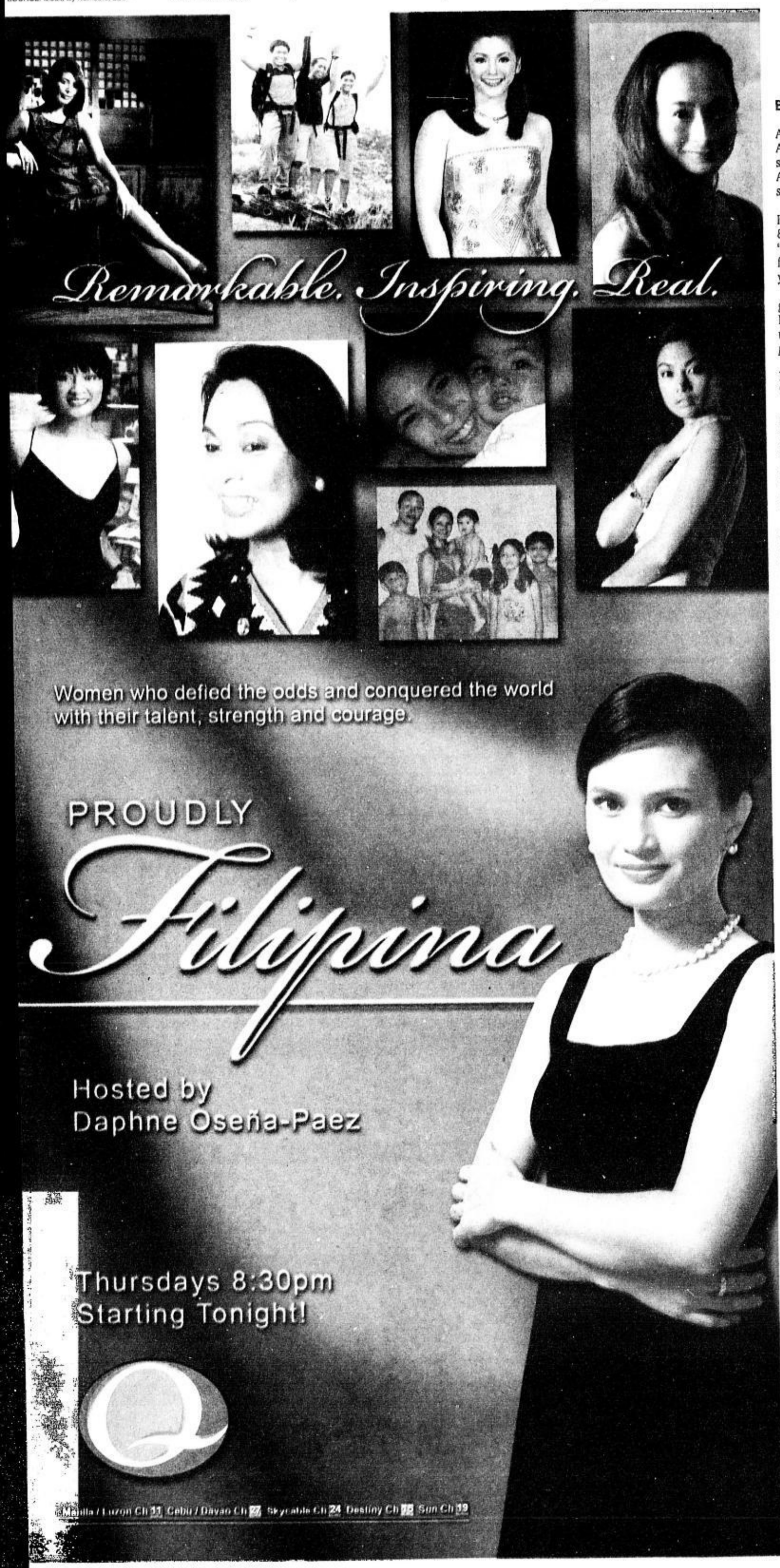
Kris: We would kill for each other.

Boy: I'd take a bullet for her.

Do you miss Kris on "The Buzz?"

Boy: Yes I do [but] it's prudent to just leave some things unsaid.

Kris: Tita Susan Roces told me, "Kris, *kung ilalayo mo ang sarili mo sa* 'The Buzz,' *binibigyan mo ng pagkakataong matahimik ang pamilya mo.*" She's right.



Amalia, Gretchen two of a kind

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

LA AMALIA AND LA GRETA ARE both screen goddesses of their respective generations. Even *diyosas* like them have trouble in paradise once in awhile. Here are the latest updates straight from Tita Nena's achy-breaky heart and Greta's mended heart. (They are both out of the country at press time.)

Amalia Fuentes: "I'm thinking of suing for alienation of affection against **Joey's** *querida*. That will force both of them to face me in court. Not many people know of this ... I want the public to know so that women with the same predicament as mine can protect themselves. This could be a landmark case. It's my crusade for women to fight predators like Joey's mistress."

Gretchen Barretto: "I have learned to silence my guilt and shame. **Tony** and I have gone beyond hurting. We recognized, despite our faults, we still want to go home to each other. Waking up knowing we are flawed and just the same accepting it. Simply because our love is found to still be far bigger than our imperfect relationship."

Oh my goddesses!

X-rated Xtine?

Christine Reyes wants to end her rift with FHM's sexiest **Katrina Halili**. Since Christine has decided to pose sexy for a men's mag, comparisons with Katrina are inevitable. Some quarters insist that she is deliberately trying to follow Katrina's career path.

She sighs. "I'm tired of the issue. I'm willing to patch things up with Katrina. But *ayoko pilitin. Dahan-dahan lang* until *mabalik na yung* friendship *namin dati. Hindi naman pwedeng* close *na kami uli agad.*"

Meanwhile, now that the two bombshells are not yet on speaking terms, let their bodies do the talking.

Go, go, Koko!

Seeing **Koko Pimentel** in the news these days puts me in a flashback mode. I remember the time he took me along to his Ateneo party. His *compañeros* asked me, "Are you also a lawyer?" I shot back in jest, "Nope, I'm a lawbreaker."

I used to greet Koko during the

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